In Memory of President Kim Il Sung

Great Statesman in 20th Century

Kathmandu, Nepal
2014

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President Kim Il Sung has souvenir picture taken with Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal and his party. (December 9, 1988)

President Kim Il Sung has souvenir photograph taken with Osorsurengin Cherma, former staff of the school for Korean War orphans in Mongolia and her party. (January 16, 1989)

President Kim Il Sung receives gifts from Osorsurengin Cherma, former staff of the school for Korean War ophans in Mongolia. (January 16, 1989)

President Kim Il Sung poses for souvenir picture with Rolph Haguel, Chairman of the Communist Workers' Party of Sweden.
(September 29, 1992)

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President Kim Il Sung Great Leader of World Revolution

By

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President of Nepal Journalists Association

and Chief Editor of Newspaper *Arpan weekly*

The Korean people, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his demise, express the sincerest gratitude and respect to President Kim Il Sung for his devotional efforts to the sacred cause for the freedom of the people and the independent development of the society and for his brilliant exploits for the mankind.

April 15 is the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, the great leader and benevolent father of the Korean people.

His birth was meant a glory promising their independent life and the future of new Korea to the oppressed Korean people and a historic announcement heralding the advent of the era of independence as desired by the mankind.

Therefore, the heavy sorrow on July 8, 1994 when President Kim Il Sung the father of socialist Korea passed away regretfully was the most grievous heart-breaking not only for the Koreans, but also the world people.

The leader of the Korean people Kim Jong Il saw to it that great President Kim Il Sung was stipulated in the constitution as the permanent President of the DPRK and April 15 named as the Day of the Sun, common holiday of mankind.

The Korean people treasure this as his unbounded faith to the predecessor leader and are confident that the cause of the President Kim Il Sung would be continued to victory by leader Kim Jong Il.

Certainly, President Kim Il Sung is really not only the great leader of the Korean people, but also the respected leader of all the progressive people of the world.

My irrepressible impulse to visit this small country situated in the Far East, drawn to this mysterious land came from the chorus of praise of the international personages and many writings lauding the great leader President Kim Il Sung who led this country small in territory and population to make a great leap forward to socialism.

Tagore Rabindranat, a poet and one of the representatives of the Indian modern literature, earlier in his poem described Korea as a candle lightening in the East and praised that it would soon shine the earth brightly.

The fact that his high-toned predict possessed of a magic power came true de facto today roused my yearning and curiosity for this country Korea still more and stirred in me a strong impulse to witness and experience it personally.

Coincidentally, the Nepal Journalists Association received an official invitation from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on June 12, 1979 and got an opportunity to visit this country.

The proverb goes that seeing is believing.

During our stay witnessing and experiencing the exploits of President Kim Il Sung made in leading socialist Korea and the successes of the Korean people, all of the delegation keenly recognized his life and prominent personality which we have already learned from many publications of the world and could understand better about Korea soaring high in the Orient.

The "Fortunate" Rare To Be Born

They say the fortunate are born under a lucky star.

To get it will be a unanimous wish, but it seems rare to get.

Therefore, they call those who got the luck of achieving their wish the fortunate.

At this point of time I can be proud of a lucky fellow among the Nepalese in the true sense of the word.

It is because I belong to a few of the Nepalese who personally met the great man so admired by the world.

I still cherish the image of President Kim Il Sung of Korea indelibly impressed in mind.

I can not forget the day June 19, 1979, the most significant day in my life.

I was excited beyond description when I was told that President Kim Il Sung, busy as he was in all the state affairs, called to see the members of the Nepalese Journalists delegation invited by the DPRK Government.

When I, leading the delegation, arrived at Chongjin a city in the

north of this country, he welcomed us calling me as one of old friends of his and gave me a friendly hug.

I will remember fore ever and ever his benevolent image deeply impressed in me that day.

He was modest enough to say that he called us to a far local province because he was in a field trip for on-the-spot guidance and warmly welcomed our delegation's visit to Korea.

In particular, the strain was relaxed all at once when he was thanking me for the congratulatory messages and saying that he felt to meet old friend of his and became close friends now.

I heard that the foreigners who got the honour of his audience, and even the politicians who were once hostile to Korea for their distrust of communism, were enchanted by his tender-hearted and simple character, grew familiar with him and had a talk without reserve.

It is because of his large magnanimity, influence, boundless modesty and simplicity.

Especially when he gave clear answers to the all-round questions raised by the interviewers in friendly talks, they would be unanimously full of confidence in victory and felt the admiration and respect that he was really the great man who would lead wisely the oppressed people of the world to the era of independence.

A reputed Japanese commentator always skeptical about the political trends and many other countries was so admired at the excellent virtue and merits of great President Kim Il Sung and moved by the Juche idea created by him and thus he wrote an article entitled "President Kim Il Sung moves Asia and the world", attracting the attention of the world media.

That day too President Kim Il Sung said affectionately that though busy, he would give answers to all the questions raised by the Nepalese journalists delegation and went on to tell that Korea and Nepal, both the developing countries in Asia and member states of the Non-aligned Movement defending independence, have had so far good friendly relations which are fully in accordance with the interests of the peoples of both countries.

Historically since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in May 1974 the two peoples have promoted mutual assistance and cooperation in various fields of politics, the economy and culture and developed sincere friendly and cooperative relations on an equal footing based on the mutual understanding and trust as independent countries which take great store by the ideals of the Non-aligned Movement, peace and friendship.

Saying that these make the basis of the unity between the two countries, he expressed high appreciation of and active support to the policies of the Kingdom of Nepal which was developing as a peaceful and equitable independent country.

Then he continued that in order to strengthen the friendship and unity the two countries have to exchange with each other good experiences together with the increased cooperation and interchange in all fields and emphasized that the Korean people would continue to strive to strengthen the friendship and unity between the Kingdom of Nepal and the DPRK and between the peoples of Nepal and Korea.

Afterwards I had had many chances to visit the DPRK. On November 29, 1990 I had the luck of getting the honour of having the interview with the President at the second time and learning from him.

That day too he gave me a very intelligent and scientific analysis on the international political situation. He said: Asia today is rising to a new phase of development focusing the attention of the international society. Peoples of Asia are industrious, intelligent and strongly independent. Asia has a great potentiality for a rapid development in view of its natural and geographical conditions. Therefore, the Asian people have to strengthen the cooperation and unity in order to oppose the imperialists' aggression and interference and build an independent, peaceful and prosperous new Asia shaking off the backward way of life and poverty.

He stressed that it was the consistent foreign policy of the Government of the DPRK to unite with all the countries championing independence and particularly develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the countries of Asia and the DPRK Government and Korean people would put all efforts as in the past to develop the all-rounded relations of friendship and cooperation with the people of Nepal with the ideals of independence, peace and friendship. Expressing in conclusion his great expectation and belief that our activities would all the more promote the relations of friendship between the two countries, he asked to convey back home his greetings to the Nepalese people and encouraged warmly them to achieve fresh successes in their activities for building a new society.

Although, these were only a part of his answers to our many questions, every word of him was an ardent wish and aspiration which we so desired to come true. I regard that with this fact alone all of our delegation including me were greatly indebted to President Kim Il Sung.

The fact that he who was attracting world-wide respect and

admiration was unsparing in so precious a time for the talk with us and gave us so warm affection and hospitality was certainly a luck we ever had and something of a great significance in my work.

It is a guideline which contributed to the unity and cohesion of the Third World countries and newly-independent countries that he taught us that the unity and cooperation have to be intensified in the principle of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefits in order to move against sabotages of the imperialists which were conspiring in the entangled international situations. Still recollecting the noble personality of President Kim Il Sung from time to time, I would ask to myself and answer about how we could have him living always in our heart.

Though insufficient, I would answer that the unusual gift, character and noble virtue of President Kim Il Sung who took the responsibility for leading Korea to the progress and prosperity over his shoulders could be found in his ability of instilling confidence in our mind and memory with so unreserved and deep affection and all-rounded clairvoyance, which made him live for ever in the heart of not only the Korean people, but also the world people.

In this context I come to the conclusion that the true fortunate are the Korean people who have President Kim Il Sung as their eternal leader of socialist Korea and are energetically advancing toward the prosperity.

Author of Great Idea

There goes that a nation becomes great when it produces a great man.

Any visitor to Korea can see the Tower of Juche Idea standing high on the bank of the beautiful River Taedong in Pyongyang, the capital city.

There are many monuments and towers in the world to show the history and excellence of their own nation and country and to convey them down the posterity.

However, nowhere in the world one can find such a monumental great tower of idea symbolizing the man-centered idea of independence as the one in Korea.

Its significance does not end up only in its architectural aspects.

As the German legend goes that whenever the *Proken Hill* throws mysterious rays, men tormented in despair and anguish were saved, so the Tower of the Juche Idea is a beacon of hope indicating the future of the independent men to the oppressed people of the world with its brilliant rays.

The author of this great idea is none other than respected President Kim Il Sung.

The core of this idea of independence lies in the theory that a nation can achieve the development and prosperity only when the building of the state and society is planned and designed always relying upon the masses of the people and their awareness of independence that they are the master and pioneer of their own destiny is enlightened.

All the successes the Korean people have achieved under the

energetic leadership of President Kim Il Sung, the author of the great Juche idea greatly inspire not only the Korean people themselves, but also the people of the world fighting for the national independence and peace.

I affirm that President Kim Il Sung is indeed a great man.

The DPRK led by this great man is a great nation in the true sense of the word.

The immortal feats of President Kim Il Sung will add glory to the history of the world revolution.

Leadership of President Kim Il Sung and What Happened in Socialist Korea

What impressed me most in the DPRK was the fact that President Kim Il Sung authored a unique theory on the socialist revolution and led the people to implement it in the practical activities relying on the Juche idea to turn Korea into an independent country as at present.

It is very hard to know all of the all-rounded intelligence and ability of President Kim Il Sung shown in dealing with the problems arising in all the fields of the state affairs and making the DPRK to play an important role in the world history.

Any history book short of the historical exploits of President Kim Il Sung who devotionally defended the survival and development of the nation from the menace of many challengers at home and abroad with clairvoyance, wisdom and courage would certainly be imperfect.

The world was quite astonished at the unprecedentedly accelerated tempo of the social, economic and cultural development of the DPRK

under his leadership.

And there is no doubt that the courageous activities of the Korean people armed with a great revolutionary idea and their life full of the fighting spirit makes an important motivation of the rapid growth in Korea.

He who led Korea in the van of this gigantic socialist construction is the genius of creation and construction.

He organized and guided the socialist construction with unusual intelligence and courageous and skilled leadership to turn Korea which was ruined during the war into a strong independent socialist state equipped with heavy and modern light industries and advanced agriculture in 14 years of a short span of time after the war.

In fact, it is unimaginable without the guiding capacity of an outstanding leader to reconstruct the economy of Korea in so short a period, which was once so devastated that the US admitted it would never be able to rise up again even in a hundred years' time, and establish a self-supporting economy safe and sound from any upheavals of the world economy.

Besides, Korea has won a complete national independence free from the subjugation of other country and built a self-defensive military power exclusive of any foreign aid, which put her in the rank of the developing countries recognized by the world. All these successes have been resulted from the extraordinary leadership capacity of President Kim Il Sung.

His immortal exploits performed in setting forth the rightful directions and struggling targets to the masses of people with clear foresight and correct consideration of the realities in every stage of the

revolution brought about a good result in all fields of the Korean society.

Both Nepal and the DPRK are developing countries.

However, the measures taken by the state in all fields of Korea to systematically improve the living standard of the people are truly wonderful. The examples of them are the creation of wonderful literature and art and the establishment of the most excellent and popular education and health care systems.

During my visit to Korea I was particularly attracted with the successes in the educational field of this country because they regarded the education as a key problem decisive of the development of the country and the destinies of the nation.

There are millions of intellectuals and youth and students in Korea.

All the children and students in Korea receive a compulsory education in schools furnished with modern scientific and educational facilities and ideal conditions and the social welfare measures for the old people and women were taken.

There will be no country in the world except Korea where the education and health care are given free of charge.

I would be over and over again aware of the rapid development in this field every time I visit Korea.

Self-reliance is a unique mode of existence of the Korean people and the very basis of their vitality.

Relying on this principle the Korean people satisfy their own basic requirements and have the right to choose an occupation suitable to their demand and aptitude and get a full guarantee from the state about the safety of their job.

As a result, Korea fully solved the problem of the unemployed.

The ideological training and the technological and cultural revolution greatly helped to increase production and accelerate the development. Indeed, the great strides made in Korea in the speed of Chollima under the excellent leadership of President Kim Il Sung were a model to all the developing countries.

Korea surely stands abreast with the advanced countries of the world with dignity and this is also a great victory achieved by the Korean people.

Political Quality of President Kim Il Sung as a Leader

It is not an exaggeration that the exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung undergoing all the sufferings and troubles with the people for the all-rounded development of the country and people were written in the glorious annals of socialist Korea.

He devoted all his life to the universal development of the nation and the people and the implementation of their rights.

He firmly believed that the Korean people can only achieve the development of the country with their devotion to their duty, labour and wisdom and led them to rise up heroically to the revolution and construction with their own devotional and practical efforts.

He continued to make the highest perfection in the development of the state and exerted unremitting efforts for the better development of Korea with the political personality accustomed to the mode of life and way of fighting of the revolutionary family.

What impressed me most during my visit to Korea was his exalted political personality.

You can see in every place in Korea, in a factory, farming or fishing villages or many places in the capital city the large-sized works of art and photographs of President Kim Il Sung talking with the people in bright smile.

The people in Korea keep the souvenir pictures taken with him together with the portraits of him at home. That was the point.

The core in his political quality lies in the fact that he was always among the people and pulled through storm and stress together with them believing the inexhaustible strength of his own people and relying on them, which made him hold in high esteem among all the Korean people.

In the past the Western bourgeois politicians preached theory of their pseudo-philosophy each for himself that “the politics is an extreme fraudulence that can move the nation” asserting that “the essence of the politics is a ruling power”.

The “politics of virtue” of Robespierre, the “sage politics” of Plato, the “enlightened monarchism” of Ghandy or the “altruistic politics” of Mozi were only varieties of the classic political theories which asserted that the power was in the last analysis a balance of forces for imposing the view of the strong.

Let me say in passing a story.

The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates asked to a statesman proud of his own political competence: Do you really think that you have talents?

The statesman full of confidence said to ask him anything political. Then Socrates asked: How much do you know about the subjects?

In his reply “I know a little about them. So ask me only about the

politics" Socrates answered: "You are dark about the politics. With your little knowledge of the subjects how can you know about the politics?" Then statesman retorted "Do they administer the state affairs?"

Socrates refuted to his face: "Can you spoon anything in an empty bowl? Your question proves that you are a statesman, but not a people of this country. From this I was aware that you do not know that you belong to this nation, to say nothing of the wisdom."

An edifying story that cannot be laughed away.

Believe in the people as in heaven, this was the motto of President Kim Il Sung.

The history and the world produced so far many great men and statesmen. But rare is a leader like him who brought the creativity of the people into full play with such a receptive and attractive mind with the masses to display the maximum rising power in the construction of the state and society.

He regarded the "politics of love" and the "politics of benevolence" that require to give priority to the masses of people and make everything serve them as the most popular and socialistic politics.

Taking the happiness and woe of the people for his own, he warmly loved the people as his own offspring.

He visited personally every nook and corner of the Republic to get acquainted with the difficulties and troubles of the people.

All the present developments of the Korean nation could be achieved under the leadership of the great man who wedded the life and desire of the people with his own.

The feeling, gratitude and respect of the people to him proves to be a vivid example showing how much the Korean people were moved by

his personality, and a great achievement in his life.

At present the Korean people, subject to all sorts of blockades and stifling policy of the US dominationists, are suffering ever more increasing ordeal and difficulties than any other countries in the vortex of the political upheavals of the world.

Resisting to being weak-kneed is to live a great life. It seems the saying is applicable to the DPRK.

The infinite driving force and desire stemming from a strong will of unanimously supporting the systematic policies and instructions put forth by him and implementing them at all costs without wavering in all the periods of their struggle, even at their worst may be closely related with his unique influence.

His erudite gifts and role as a revolutionary developed and strengthened in the struggle for the national independence will make a chapter in the history inspiring all the peace-loving peoples of the world.

Korea's Reunification Prerequisite for Peace

The rapid development of the DPRK was welcomed in great delight throughout the world and undeniably an event of great significance.

That is why the world peace-loving people think it very unfortunate that this country is still divided into two.

No wonder that the Korean people must greatly suffer from the misfortune caused by the national division.

They had to fight the Japanese militarism for the independence of the nation at one time and at the other the US imperialist invaders to defend the young Republic.

These hard struggles widely known could not put an end to the misfortune of the national division still persisting.

The division of the country into the north and the south hampers the development of Korea toward a very thriving nation.

It is quite lamentable for the world peace-loving people to see the Korean nation, still being divided into two, who lived five thousand years long with the same blood, language, culture and civilization.

It is clear that the Korea's reunification is a matter of establishing one state reunited into a single nation and cultural fabric.

With this premise President Kim Il Sung exerted continued efforts to reunify the country since the foundation of the DPRK till the last time of his life.

In Panmunjom in Korea widely known throughout the world as a symbol of the national division you can see a monument inscribed with "Kim Il Sung 7 July 1994" set up by the Korean people to the memory of his personal signature to the document related to the national reunification at the last moment of his life.

The Korean people always keep his behests on the national reunification at the bottom of their heart.

The Three Principle of the national reunification suggested by him in May 1972 and the Five Point Policy for the national reunification put forth in June 1973 received great applause in the world and the UN had encouraged supporting these proposals and the just approach of the Korean people.

The proposals made by the Government of the Republic for achieving the national reunification in a peaceful and democratic way without any foreign interference are very just and significant in the

present circumstances.

The relations between the north and the south need the atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust which would lead to a social campaign conducive to the promotion of the national unity and the final settlement of the peaceful reunification.

I am firmly confident and sincerely hope that the Korean people will put an end to the division of the nation and achieve the national reunification without fail under the most encouraging and sagacious leadership of the supreme leader Marshal Kim Jong Un for carrying out the behests of President Kim Il Sung.

*　　*　　*

Day after day during my stay in the DPRK was a series of proud and happy days that made me experience the value of life as an independent man.

The development of the DPRK is very fast because it has no political dissension.

Every Korean people regard themselves as a member of the nation. They set great store by the idea of the national unity and nationalism to defend their sovereignty and develop the country without foreign intervention.

This made me think that the relations between the state and the people in Korea are the same as between fish and water.

Today the DPRK continues to march forward under the energetic and far-sighted leadership of great His Excellency Kim Jong Un.

On this happy day I, on behalf of myself and the Nepal Journalists

Association, sincerely wish His Excellency Marshal Kim Jong Un, the first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, the first chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and the great leader of the Korean people well and healthy and the Korean people prosperous.

Long live the friendship between Nepal and the DPRK!

Days of White Snow, Friendship and Solidarity

By

Juan Jose Leon Vega (Cuba)

I was born into a poor peasant family in Havana Province in 1939. I took part in the July 26 movement to lead the peasants. I helped to set up the National Small Peasants' Association and worked as chairman of the Peasants Association of this organization and later the vice-chairman of the National Committee.

Later I was elected to the Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and worked as the vice-chairman and am now working as chairman of the Cuban Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea.

I had the honour of meeting many times the great leader of the Korean people President Kim Il Sung while I was working as the Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the DPRK from December 24, 1988 to February 28, 1994.

This is my reminiscences related with him.

Although it is in fact a difficult job for me to write my experiences related with him, I decided to try to do it because he was incomparably attractive and I myself thought I knew about him better than any other

since I belong to rare foreigners who knew many stories about him and was on good terms with him in a not so short span of time.

He was very friendly and modest to me of course, but what made me most respect him and look up to him was his active support to Fidel and Cuba through me, my wife and embassy staffs whenever he met me at the time of my career as the ambassador.

I will keep this great and pleasant memory deep in my heart to the last day of my life.

Frankly speaking, I would not go rhetorical, but want to apologize to the readers about my attempt. However, I decided to leave this writing to make my indelible experiences kept in my heart for ever.

There were many great men and their exploits and feats and much was written about them. To tell the history of the 20th century their names have to be referred to and one of them is Kim Il Sung.

It is difficult to do so, but I would like to recollect him not as a hero, but as a common man who devoted his lifetime to his fatherland.

Logically I would like to write about unknown stories shared with Comrade Kim Il Sung and let the readers keep them as treasures.

My First Visit to DPRK

I worked from 1979 at the post of the vice-chairman in charge of foreign affairs of the national leadership of the National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba. Since I also concurrently held the post of the vice-chairman of the Cuban Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea, I would have contacts with the delegates of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea in foreign countries.

In early September 1983 the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea invited a delegation of the National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba.

Hence I had an opportunity to visit Korea for the first time together with Comrade Juan Larana who was Chairwoman of the Small Farmers Association of Olguin Province at the time.

We agreed the schedule of visits with the Korean comrades to see cooperative farms, farm machine stations, institutes and the exhibition of the gifts to Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Visiting cooperative farms, we could learn that in this country rural construction was by and large well under way on a high level.

We fully got aware that Korea set great store by the rural construction while having talks and exchange of experiences with the UAWK officials and visiting the agronomical exhibition.

While visiting the International Friendship Exhibition House we felt the warm respect of the many heads of states and prominent figures of the world to the leaders of Korea.

In the exhibition house there were also gifts presented by Supreme Commander Fidel Castro and esteemed Raul Castro. The gifts were fraught with friendship and respect between the leaders of the two countries.

Most impressive at the time was the visit to Panmunjom. There we keenly felt again the misfortune the Korean people were suffering from the division and the need to fight for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. There we also fully got acquainted with the very reasonable proposals put forward by Comrade Kim Il Sung for the reunification.

We could witness personally in Panmunjom that Yankees were the chieftain of the tragedy and suffering of the Korean people.

Later I felt all the more keenly the necessity of the Korea's reunification through several times of visits to Panmunjom and am still striving for it.

Unfortunately in the first visit to Korea, I could not have an opportunity to meet Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people and close friend of the Cuban party and people.

At the time the chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee arranged a luncheon in a newly opened restaurant in front of Pyongyang Koryo Hotel for me since I was the vice-chairman of the Cuban Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea, where we took a toast for the health of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. I still remember that in the luncheon the KCSC chairman took a boiled egg with chopsticks and put it on my dish.

I knew how to use the chopsticks, but I have never used them to take an egg.

We were then in the Taedonggang Hotel by the scenic River Taedong. We returned home with a good remembrance on Korea and a hope to have a great honour of meeting Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Good Luck of Meeting Twice a Day

A conference of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea was held in the DPRK in 1981.

Present there from Cuba were Adolfo Ans, the then chairman of the Cuban Ecclesiastical Council, and I at the capacity of the chairman

of the Cuban Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea. The conference emphasized the injustice of the division of the Korean peninsular and adopted a resolution on making every effort to reunify the divided Korea.

After the conference great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung met all of us. He received greetings from each of us.

As the interpreter introduced me to him he said "Convey my warm greetings to Comrade Fidel Castro."

Shown into a parlor, we heard for the first time his logical words about the illegal division of Korea.

As a man who experienced the misfortune from the first day of the division and dedicated his life to the cause of the reunification, he analyzed the prevailing situation in the country with great intelligence. Hearing his words we thought the mankind should no longer tolerate this historical misfortune.

In those days a Cuban delegation led by Armando Akosta Kordero, then Politburo Member of the Party and accompanied by Reynaldo Rodriges, then chairman of the National Committee of Sports, Education and Entertainments, and Javider Rodrigues, instructor of the international department of the Party was visiting Korea.

I received an instruction to join this delegation after the conference. So I was granted an audience with Comrade Kim Il Sung that day.

On the arrival at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall the delegation was being introduced to him. When I went to him, he recognized me saying: … I saw this comrade already when I met other delegation.

I was surprised at his clear memory. And I was proud of being the only foreigner who met him twice a day in significant events. The

memory of that day is still indelible in my mind.

In the reception that day the talks were focused on the failure of executing the proposal on the co-participation of the north and south Korea in the Seoul Olympics by the obstinate opposition of the south Korean side in spite of all the positive efforts of all the parties concerned and the boycott of the Cuban side to participate in the Seoul Olympics in token of solidarity with the DPRK.

Day of Presenting My Credentials to President

I received a delightful news in mid-1988 that I was about to be appointed to the Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the DPRK.

It was a great honour to me. An appointment of a son of a poor peasant to the ambassadorship was only imaginable under the socialist system. At the same time I had worries too, but my anxiety was eased by the thought that I would be working in a fraternal country led by the President I had already got acquainted and a close friend of Cuba and Comrade Fidel and the expectation that I would get much help in my work.

At the end of the year we had finished all the preparation. My wife and I left for Pyongyang at the end of December since the forthcoming January 1 was the Revolution V-day.

Though the season in Korea was winter, we felt pleasant at the thought of the warm feeling of the Korean people.

On arrival I asked the officials of the Korean Foreign Ministry a favour of my presenting the credentials to great Comrade President and

inviting him to the banquet of January the first.

I presented my credentials on December 24, 1988. The ceremony was held at ten o'clock in a simple way as his character. He came to the end of the red carpet and stood there waiting for me. I approached him to say "I have the honour of presenting to Your Excellency my credentials that prove to appoint me to the ambassador to your country in the name of the Cuban Government and the Supreme Commander Fidel Castro."

Comrade Kim Il Sung received my letter of credentials to give it to the Chief of Protocol and called us to have a photograph taken in remembrance of this precious moment. (The photo is kept as a family treasure at my home.) Then we were shown to the next parlor.

Before the talk he asked me the health of Comrade Fidel, Comrades Raul and Bongo (Ramon Castro, the elder brother of Fidel).

I answered him that all were healthy and worked hard for the country. (During my stay in Korea as the ambassador he would start the talk with the same questions every time he met many Cuban delegations.)

The interview went on smoothly in a brotherly atmosphere. He told about the friendship between the two countries, anti-imperialist struggle, the artificial division of the Korean peninsula and the manoeuvrings of blockade against Cuba.

Looking back upon the capture of the US armed spy ship Pueblo, he expressed thanks for the Cuba's exposure of the acts of the US imperialists to the world and support to Korea when they fastened the blame upon Korea after invading the territorial waters of the DPRK. It was an unforgettable day for me and those who accompanied me.

It was because we felt his feeling of friendship toward Cuba and Comrade Fidel at the interview and could understand the reason why the

Korean people had him as their supreme leader and the world holds him in high esteem.

In Pyongyang in 1989

My country Cuba exerted great efforts to send an excellent youth delegation at the invitation to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Pyongyang. We helped our delegate with the preparations in all aspects for accepting the Cuban delegation who was working in the international preparatory commission being operated in Pyongyang, DPRK.

I remember that those of the international relations department of the Communist Youth League of Cuba suggested entertaining the foreign visitors to their club with a Cuban drink *mohito* during the festival. I heartily welcomed the suggestion. But the problem was a grass called *yerba buena* needed to make the *mohito*. They were anxious to bring it from Cuba.

I had some knowledge of the grass. I relieved them saying that here I was the ambassador born of a peasant family.

Next day we began to build a green house in the compound of the embassy to sow the seeds of *yerba buena*. We tendered the grass together with a diligent Korean gardener and transplanted them in the field. The grass grew thickly enough to make a great deal of *mohito*. We treated the foreign visitors to our club opened in the Kwangbok Street with the drink.

Treating him with the peculiar Cuban drink when President Kim Il Sung visited our club, we told him as to how we grew the *yerba*

buena. He was very pleasant hearing our story.

The Korean people made vigorous efforts to complete the construction projects for the festival under the guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung. A wide boulevard was made in the Kwangbok Street and all the buildings and facilities were erected so that the participants in the festival could spend happy days.

When the whole of Pyongyang city turned into a capital of the world progressive youths, our delegation also stayed in the district.

The opening ceremony of the festival was excellent. It will be remembered long.

When Comrade Kim Il Sung appeared in the platform of the May Day Stadium, a thunderous applause shook the stadium and the capital.

Korean young people who had Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il high on the platform, showed a wonderful scene with their gymnastic formations, acrobatic feats and background scenes. The background scenes were ever changing from the scene of a football game to a locomotive engine moving. All the scenes seemed that dreams come true.

A very beautiful and cozy festival village was allotted to our delegation. Our young people engaged in all the activities scheduled to do as a delegation including the meetings with the Korean and other foreign youths. They were busy day and night. All spent sleepless nights. Every young man and woman was restless from strong sense of duty to represent their nation proudly with the delight, music, friendship and what not.

We had a privilege to place the Cuban club in the beautiful Pyongyang School Children's Palace so that our delegation could

perform all envisaged in its schedule. In this club we welcomed Comrade Kim Il Sung. He greeted every member of our delegation in full smile. The leading members of the Cuban delegation and all the staff members, men and women, warmly welcomed him. In the club he saw our exhibits and attended the cultural events. Then he sat face to face with the leading members of the delegation and young people to learn the formation of the delegation and was informed of the greetings of the Supreme Commander Comrade Fidel Castro and the whole Cuban people.

I still remember that he was interested in the raw material of the *mohito* drink and the method of making it. His was not only a visit as the friend of Cuba and Fidel, but also one worthy of commemoration for our youths and people to feel obliged to.

The delegation presented a beautiful saddle made by the working people of Camague Province as a gift to him, wishing him always young and ride on the historical white horse which was said to give great help to him during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The Cuban delegation wished him good health and a long life.

I believe that the young men and women from Cuba and other countries and continents could not forget the days when they spent with him in high esteem.

* *mohito*: one of the Cuban drinks made of white liquor (ron), sugar, lemon, ice and *yerba buena.*

April Spring Friendship Art Festival Held in Pyongyang

A spring festival is held every year on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. The festival is a significant

event involving the artistes invited from many countries of the world before and after April 15, the day when he was born in Mangyongdae.

Our country was no exception. We also would send excellent artistes.

Those who displayed the honour of the motherland and contributed to making the anniversary splendidly on the stages of Pyongyang were the pianists ranking with Franc Hernandez and Luis Prats, soloists ranking with Luci Provedo and Alina Sanches, the saxophone group of Praguela, the acrobats of the State Circus and high-ranking male and female dancers.

The artistes participating in the festival rendered more than one Korean song. Particularly the singers had much trouble at the Korean pronunciation, but since they knew the significance of the day put great efforts to please Comrade Kim Il Sung who deserved to get the congratulation and the Korean people.

He would get loud applause and cheers in every attendance of the performance and after the performance congratulate every performer. When he congratulated our delegation I had the privilege to accompany him and when he posed for a photograph taken with the artistes, I also stood there with other ambassadors.

During the festival the Korean people enjoy to see all the excellent artistic works which the world people sing their love of President Kim Il Sung and the Korean people. In every April a door of the world culture would be opened in Pyongyang, which gives them the confidence that it would never be closed though there is any event of invasion.

When I think of the April Spring Friendship Art Festival a passage of a poem would come across my mind.

You, plum tree standing before my door,
Though I could not come,
Spring surely will come,
O, you will bloom

I think I did not quote a right poem, but Comrade Kim Il Sung will always be alive in the mind of the mankind with spring and the memory of him will bloom for ever like the flower of the plum tree.

Mangyongdae

This name of the place will be insignificant to those who are not so familiar with the history of the DPRK. But if they know that President Kim Il Sung was born there, they would understand why I try to introduce this place under a subtitle.

There is a simple straw-thatched house in the suburb of Pyongyang where permanent President Kim Il Sung of the Korean people was born and spent his childhood.

President's grandparents tenanted a small plot of land from a landlord to make a living. At the time in Korea the exploitation of the peasants was very harsh. The President was born at the time and educated by his parents and grandparents.

His parents had to go to Manchuria to fight colonialists, taking young his son with them.

He had to live in an alien land far away from his homeland and people. His parents thought his son had to know about his motherland.

So they decided to send him back home in Mangyongdae. At the age of 11 he came back to his revolutionary grandparents crossing rivers and mountains unaccompanied and getting over hunger and fatigue to learn the fighting spirit and love of the people from them. When he was 13 years old he returned to Manchuria with firm determination to liberate the fatherland and the people.

I will deviate from the main subject if I go on this story, so I would like to refer here only to Mangyongdae.

I visited this place when I was in Korea for the first time where I saw with respect the Korean people embellishing Mangyongdae with all sincerity, a place which adds a page to their history.

From then on I visited Mangyongdae many times with the delegations from my country, by way of events, accompanying my wife or taking my daughter who came to spend her vacation in Korea.

In that place making one to feel comfortable as if in cradle or drawn into deep thought, the visitors would see him in childhood playing and smiling at birds call, coming to the simple straw-thatched house after wrestling and going to bed after meal as if they see them all in realities.

There we felt that in view of the present realities and the events occurring in the world the people who live without the memory of their own history or try to patch it up will make themselves the most pitiful nation lost their own history.

The mode of Koreans preserving their history might be to the liking of the one who see it, or not.

But what is clear is that the Korean Party and people will set great store by their history yesterday, today and tomorrow, too. Mangyongdae is a good testifier of it.

President Kim Il Sung is alive in this land. The schoolchildren and working people visit this place to pay tribute to the man who devoted his whole lifetime to the people.

Hunting

During the stay in the DPRK we would go hunting twice every year. Under the instructions of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il it used to be organized once by the Workers' Party of Korea and the other by the Foreign Ministry.

On arrival in Korea I heard about it from the embassy staffs. I prepared myself in earnest because I was ignorant of the terrain and weather there.

I had an experience of hunting with a 16mm hunting gun in my home at our farm and its vicinity and when organizing the militia I handled arms, so there was no problem in handling arms, but the problem was how I adapt to the alien climate and hunting at night.

Our first hunting was done in the province bordering China. At that time we were accompanied by Kim Hyong U, deputy director of the international department of the Workers' Party of Korea, and some officers of it.

At the spot we took a short rest and had a brief meeting.

In the meeting we agreed to present the first hunted roe deer to Comrade Kim Il Sung and the second to Comrade Kim Jong Il and we did so that day as agreed and have done so, too at the later huntings.

We would use a USSR-made *Gaz 69* jeep. The jeep was a present given by Comrade Kim Il Sung to the first Cuban ambassador to the

DPRK.

In the evening we left the boarding house. The jeep was driven by the then cultural councilor of our embassy. We were accompanied by the military attaché close to expiry of his term to the embassy and the then correspondent of the *Prensa Latina* in Korea. We ran short of one km.

I was fascinated with the beautiful nightscape of Korea, when someone touched me whispering "Comrade Ambassador, please look there."

I gazed into the way he was indicating. My eyes blurred, but in a moment I could find a blue light beaming from the eyes of an animal. I took the hunting-gun habitually and aimed it and gave a pull to the trigger. The roe deer was hit, a first game in Korea. It was a big animal. We agreed to present it to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as decided.

From then I was known as a good marksman and my eyes grew sharp following the beam of head lights.

The hunting that day was a success. We hunted 27 roe deer and many pheasants and at the close we took a toast to the long life and good health of Comrades Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Fidel.

Afterwards we would go hunting every January and February mainly in Talchon and Yonthan. I remember those who accompanied us, Kim Yong Sun, Member of the Politburo, and Song Ho Gyong among them.

Comrade Kim Il Sung proposed to take the wives and children of the embassy staffs and wives of the Koreans to the hunting. This made an opportunity to strengthen the friendship between Cuba and Korea and for the Cuban people to get better acquainted with the development

of Korea, know the local places and make friends with the people there.

Once we had been to Talchon. I told to the interpreter to tell to Comrade Kim Yong Sun to treat the party with *Tangogi* in the welcoming dinner pretending to be goat's meat. They had done as I said.

Only three people, Comrade Kim Yong Sun, the interpreter and I knew what kind of meat we took that day. The rest of them relished it, saying that the goat's meat was good.

The secret is still kept, but the Koreans put *Tangogi* on the table by my request for the first time and they had never done before.

When my term expired and parted with the Korean leading officials to return home, a dinner was given in the embassy. Brief speeches were made and those present drank a toast to the health and long life of the leaders of the two countries. I still remember what the then vice-foreign minister, Mr. Song Ho Kyong, sitting close by said to me: "Comrade Ambassador, those pleased with your return are only roe deer and pheasants, but the rest fell very sorry." I felt from his words that I was recognized as a good hunter and a genuine friend of Korea.

Gift Jeep Given by Comrade Kim Il Sung

I am going to say about a unique styled jeep the *Gaz 69* convertible with four doors, which was usually seen in the streets in Cuba and Korea in the 1960s and 1970s. It was a rare scene that such a *Gaz 69* was used as an official car for an ambassador.

When the diplomatic relations were established between Cuba and Korea Comrade Kim Il Sung presented a *Gaz 69* to our ambassador to use for the foreign affairs.

At that time the diplomatic village was under construction and the roads were not yet paved as today. The first Cuban ambassador Lazaro Vigoa ran the streets of Pyongyang proudly with the national colors on the head of the *Gaz 69.*

Thereafter the car became a property of the embassy. The successive Cuban ambassadors and all the Cubans visiting Korea kept the car with great care.

As we obtained new cars, the *Gaz 69* was transferred to other staffs and taken care of with the best sincerity.

When I arrived in the DPRK as the ambassador in 1988 I learned the story of the jeep and from then on the car was only used when going hunting.

The garage of the diplomatic corps repaired it good to take it to the friendly hunting.

During my stay in the fraternal country all those who used the car for hunting would always find the symbol of friendship between Cuba and Korea.

When he gave the jeep to our first ambassador as a gift he would probably have not thought that the jeep had become something to recollect year after year the friendship he had expressed to our country and furthermore couldn't imagine that all of us called it as the “jeep given by Comrade Kim Il Sung”.

Today this jeep is kept as a permanent keepsake in the Cuban embassy.

First Visit of Comrade Kim Il Sung to Cuban Embassy

Every April 15, the birthday of Comrade Kim Il Sung, was traditionally celebrated in our embassy. The personages from the WPK, Government and major institutions were invited. Present there were leading officials of this country every time. We thought it honorable and extended gratitude to them on behalf of our Party, Government and Supreme Commander Fidel Castro.

I often earnestly requested from the arrival in Pyongyang to grant the honor that President Kim Il Sung visited our embassy to celebrate his birthday together with us.

Meanwhile, Comrade Fidel went to the Korean embassy in Havana to congratulate the birthday of President Kim Il Sung. It was a demonstration of the deep relations of friendship between the two leaders.

In April 1991 too we sent as ever invitation cards to many in celebration of the birthday of Kim Il Sung and to him as well as ever.

To our surprise, one of the Vice-Foreign Minister and Chief of Protocol informed us of the highest honor that President Kim Il Sung would come to the Cuban embassy to mark his birthday together with the embassy members.

We all ran to welcome him in the due level of receiving the head of state.

He arrived as scheduled. All the members of our embassy warmly welcomed him and asked him to pose for a photograph with him.

He pleasantly approved it. The photograph is kept with great respect conveys the historical moment.

There was a large 80 seater parlor in the embassy. Most of the guests and many of the embassy staffs entered into there.

Comrade Kim Il Sung and other leading cadres were shown to the next room.

Present there were the great President and his companions O Jin U Minister of the People's Armed Forces, Choe Kwang Chief of General Staff of KPA, Kim Yong Nam the then Foreign Minister and his wife, Kye Ung Thae Politburo Member of WPK, Kim Yong Sun Director of the International Department of WPK and his wife, Kwon Thae Hyon interpreter, and from the embassy the political councilor and his wife and I and my wife.

I made greetings of welcome to him with the highest respect, expressed thanks in the name of our Party, Government and Chairman Fidel Castro and referred to the unbreakable friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Then I proposed to drink a toast to the good health and long life of Comrades Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Fidel Castro and the health of all the rest present there.

Comrade Kim Il Sung also expressed thanks to our invitation and made very significant remarks about the friendship between Korea and Cuba, the visit of Comrade Fidel to the DPRK and the role of Cuba in Latin America and proposed a toast to the health of Fidel and Raul and those present there.

That day I put a few bottles of *Havana Club* on the table. He asked me how to make the liquor. I explained to him about it, then he said: Comrade Ambassador, doctors advise me to drink no more than three cups, but you have to take seven cups.

Since the cups were small I took all of the seven cups as he said.

Toward the close of the dinner I offered him a birthday cake. He personally cut a piece and gave it carefully to my wife. The rest of the cake was served by the waiters.

I think his visit to the embassy was the highest mark of friendship and regard to Cuba and Comrade Fidel.

All those present there will keep the historical evening in the depth of their heart till the last day of their life.

Celebration of Fidel's Birthday in Korea

On arrival in the DPRK we got the approval to celebrate officially the 13th of August, the birthday of the Supreme Commander Fidel because it was deeply customized in this country.

Participated in the event were the high officials of the Party, Government, armed forces, working people's organizations and the solidarity committee with Cuba. It would be a fete day of Cuba-Korea friendship and solidarity in the true sense of the word.

It would have been perfect if Comrade Kim Il Sung attended there, but it remained unfulfilled.

We knew that he would go to the cool mountainous area when the weather grew hotter.

At first he would go to Mt. Myohyang, then to Mt. Kumgang and in August to Mt. Paektu. The temperature there was 5-7^{o} lower than in Pyongyang.

Therefore, we suggested to the Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam to celebrate the birthday of Comrade Fidel accompanied by President

Kim Il Sung in Mt. Paektu.

A few days later the Foreign Minister informed us that President Kim Il Sung agreed to our suggestion and said to take all of the embassy staffs, male and female, by air, adding that he would think it honour to celebrate the birthday of Comrade Fidel together with them. We could not contain ourselves for joy.

We prepared the event.

We flew to Mt. Paektu on August 11, 1991 aboard the Tu-154. On Mt. Paektu we were provided with a cozy abode. After a rest we were shown to a palace furnished with a banquet hall.

A delicate and beautiful architecture, it was provided with all the facilities for major events.

At 11:00 a.m. on August 13, President Kim Il Sung came to us in full smile as ever. I greeted him and introduced all of my embassy staffs one by one and invited him to the banquet hall.

I expressed gratitude to him for accepting the invitation to our celebration of Comrade Fidel's birthday and granting us to spend the fete day accompanied by him.

After referring to the friendship between the two Parties, Governments and peoples, anti-imperialist struggle and the solidarity of Cuba to the Korean reunification, I proposed a toast to the good health and long life of Comrades Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Fidel and the health of those present there.

President Kim Il Sung rose to express his pleasure of celebrating the birthday of Comrade Fidel, brother and friend, and thanks to the embassy for inviting him to the significant fete day.

He went on to say about the relations of friendship between Korea

and Cuba, the struggle of the two countries respectively in the Western and the Eastern hemisphere against imperialists and the importance of the Korea's reunification to the people and proposed a toast to the health and long life of Comrades Fidel Castro Ruz and Raul and the health of all those present there.

Then he referred to the fact that a small country Korea with a long history was divided by the great powers and had to fight Japanese colonialists at first, who inflicted horrible hardship to the Korean people and that the Korean people fought the US imperialists in the period of 1950-1953 and won the victory in the war.

Saying that the courageous and self-sacrificing Korean people are still continuing to fight to reunify their country, he emphasized that they will carry on the struggle until the country is reunified into one.

All those present there convincing the justness of his words firmly believed that he would devote himself to the last moment of his life for the sake of his people and he did as we believed. Hence he is so admired by all the Korean people as ever.

Celebration of Comrade Fidel's Birthday Again on Mt. Paektu

In August 1992, President Kim Il Sung saw to it that he accompanies our embassy staffs in celebrating the birthday of Comrade Fidel. So we again flew to Mt. Paektu.

We took a rest and then went to learn the situation of a beautiful venue, where provided with all the facilities for major events.

At a place about 60 metres away from the building, we met the

President to greet. He shook the hands of every staff of our embassy and then posed for a photograph taken with us. Walking to the guest house he looked back upon the hard days when he was engaged in the guerrilla warfare in the Mt. Paektu area. He said that they had a very hard time of it because of the severe cold, shortage of food supply and desperate pursuits of the enemy.

He had told the stories of those hard days so easily and vividly as if we were seeing him as a lead of some part of a film.

In the guest house I rose first to express thanks to Comrade Kim Il Sung for his bringing us here and proposed a toast to the good health and longevity of Comrades Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and the Supreme Commander Fidel Castro.

When I took my seat the President rose up to speak for more than ten minutes about the friendship with Cuba and Fidel and proposed a toast to the good health and long life of Comrades Fidel and Raul and Kim Jong Il.

The reception hall was filled with the atmosphere of the fraternal friendship and affection of Kim Il Sung with Cuba and Comrade Fidel.

But, that day something conflicting happened. Though the President was not aware, the director of Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry called me to advise: “Comrade Ambassador, as you know our leader is now aged. I would like you promise to speak no more than three minutes. Then our leader too would speak that much.” As I promised, I did not exceed the time limit. However, President Kim Il Sung stood for more than ten minutes speaking. I was anxious and looked him up from time to time. He waved me to relieve. The Chief of Protocol grew restless. However, I was privately delighted to get a

chance of seeing him speaking long about Cuba and Fidel.

That day he told us an interesting story. It was related with a matter of good fellowship, that is, anybody, if he had the highest social standing, always needs social fellowship since he is a man.

Once he was staying in a guest house in the former USSR. There was also Premier Zhu En-lai in the same guest house. Comrade Kim Il Sung could not get to sleep. So he walked out of the room, when he met Comrade Zhu En-lai who also failed to get to sleep.

Comrade Zhu invited him to drink *Maotai.* Fluent in Chinese he had a talk with Zhu far into the night drinking *Maotai.* Concluding his story he told in full smile with a look reproaching him:

…The next day I nearly missed the train.

We got an unusual feeling from the story.

We learned that he who had undergone the hardest past set so great store by the friendship with the people as an ordinary man. At the moment we looked him up as the greatest man standing before us, furthermore before the world.

Receptions of Cuban Delegations

Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people met many Cuban personages and had important and friendly talks with them during the five years of my career as the ambassador. As has been written all along in my writing, he would always inquire the health of his friends and brothers Comrades Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and the elder brother of the Supreme Commander Ramon Castro before he started the talks.

Follow below are the Cuban comrades he met:

- Juan Almeida Bosque (Revolutionary Major)
- Ulices Rozales del Tor (Chief of General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Major General)
- Vilma Espin Guillot (Chairwoman of Cuban Women's Union)
- Vedro Los Real (Chairman of Cuban Working Peoples' Centre)
- Rene Rodriguez (Chairman of the Friendship Association with World Peoples)
- Ricardo Ar Davalo (Minister of Culture)
- Jorhe Rescano Perez (Politburo Member)
- Ernesto Melendes Vals (former Chairman of Cooperation Committee)
- Juan Escalona Leguera (Chairman of the National Congress of People's Power)
- Julio Camacho Aguilera (Party Politburo Member)
- Ramon de la Cruzo Ochoa (Judge of the Republic)
- Juan Antonio de la Rosa (Director of construction department of the Cuban Communist Party)
- Candelaria Rodriguez (a member of the delegation of the International Democratic Lawyers' Association)

The President met all these delegates and posed for a photograph with them in the Kumsusan Assembly Hall (the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun at present). Every time I would express thanks him for his kind hospitality to our delegation.

This was a demonstration of the friendship between the Governments, Parties and peoples of Cuba and Korea.

Eye-opening Moment

Closing my career of ambassador in Korea in mid-February 1994 I met more than forty Korean officials concerned with the relations between the two countries and was busy saying good-bye to the ambassadors of the other countries, when I was called by the Korean Foreign Ministry one day afternoon to arrive at its building till 4:00 p.m. I doubtedly went over all the issues discussed so far and considered seriously what I would have missed or anything happened menacing the DPRK.

I went over through the documents too, but found nothing reasoning the urgent call. I arrived at the Foreign Ministry sharp at 4:00 p.m. The director of Protocol Department of the Ministry was waiting for me as ever. When I was shown to a big parlor I found to my surprise the Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam, two vice-ministers, some department directors and officials concerned with Cuba.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam received me with pleasure and explained the reason to call me that the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung granted to present a watch inscribed with his name to me in his name in high appreciation of my successful work for strengthening the diplomatic and friendly relations and developing the trade between Korea and Cuba.

The DPRK would award the ambassadors different ranking friendship orders.

Since I was already conferred the Friendship Order the First Class Comrade Kim Il Sung saw to present me a watch, he explained.

I thanked the President for the solicitude and said it is more than I

deserved since I only discharged my duty as a revolutionary with utmost ardor to fulfill the policies of Comrade Fidel and our Party.

Then I had a cordial talk with the Foreign Minister. Coming back home I thought pleased with the prize granted surprisingly instead of the anxiety that I had felt when I was called. How can I forget it since the present to crown it all was something given by Kim Il Sung himself.

Great Man of Human Love

By
Shailendra Kumar Upadhaya (Nepal)

Twenty years flowed by under the bridge.

How heart-broken I felt in those days when a great grief wrapped the planet!

Many Eastern and Western renowned figures closely related politically and individually with Korean President Kim Il Sung worked many writings about his great ideas and leadership and high moral repute for the last twenty years.

As I have been at the high post of foreign affairs of the Government of Nepal, I have met many reputed personages. But they left only one or two books in their lifetime and even those were apt to be covered by the dust.

However, I have never seen such a man as President Kim Il Sung who was so much lauded in his lifetime and left so great an afterglow after his death.

Reading the books which they, different in language and color, wrote books with the words from the bottom of their heart so unforgettable of him who left important traces in the political annals of the mankind, I thought it over and over again to write down in my own way the sea of

admiration I kept to him.

But I have seen him only twice, different from them who had been deeply concerned with him as friends or comrades. It seemed to be quite unreasonable for me who had met him only twice to dare write about him as if a primary school boy tries to write a history book, which made me hesitate so far.

As a drop of water reflects the cosmos, so I would not care if someone puts fault at my door that I dared with a primary school boy's reach of the eye since it came from my sincere respect to the august career of a great man.

Those words I often heard from the impressive people I met whenever I would visit Korea gave me confidence that I could describe the great personality at least in some degree with the momentary remembrance about the President and from this I decided to make an attempt with a dull-witted writing capacity.

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I visited the DPRK in July 1973 for the first time when I was working as a permanent representative of Nepal to UNO.

I was deep in thought when I received an invitation to visit Korea through the permanent observer of the DPRK in the UNO.

I have been told very much about the reputation of Korea and President Kim Il Sung from my university days.

We would feel sick and shudder at the stories of the sorrowful history of the modern Korea and the misfortune the Korean people had to suffer for decades under the subjugation of Japanese imperialism

from the early 20th century and the horrible plundering and repression perpetrated by the Japanese nationalists in the East Asia and Korea.

I think the right expression of the fate of the Korean people under the brutal oppression of Japan that may put the medieval harsh rule to shame would be as perilous as a light exposed to the wind.

When the once swaggering “patriots” or “campaigners” were cowering under the gleaming swords of Japan grumbling gibberishes “the Oriental sun faded” or “fire on the top of the Mt. Olympus gone”, President Kim Il Sung, a young General in his twenties, led armed forces in Mt. Paektu at the northern tip of Korea to punish the oppressors.

The climate is very mild in Nepal, my country, located in the south of Asia.

Accordingly, they have no knowledge of the coldness in winter in the northeastern Manchuria linked in the same vein with the Chinese continent.

The biting cold in winter around 40-50° below zero is so severe that the people there compares the height of the mid-winter with a coldness which may freeze birches to break.

Living in the open air enduring such severe cold and going hungry in the primeval snow-covered sea of forests, he led the anti-Japanese armed struggle as long as 15 years.

To say the hardship of the anti-Japanese war, anybody can clearly understand it through the fate of the President’s family which was a great household.

I heard from the guides in Pyongyang that there had been about ten in the family in Mangyongdae (it is a name of the birthplace of the President in the western outskirts of Pyongyang). Almost all of them had

taken part in the independence movement. Out of them the President himself was the only one who had come back home after liberation of the country. Indeed his parents, brothers and even uncles sacrificed themselves for the sacred war of resistance for the independence of the country.

In this unprecedented war of resistance he put forth a unique idea that the only way for achieving the independence of the country and saving the destiny of the nation laid in relying on the strength of his own people (later he named it the Juche idea) when the others advocated toadyism carrying about the petition to or, running to get an approval from, the great powers respectively. Then he started to rally comrades and organized them and relying on this organization turned the liberation movement of the Korean people the Japanese top executives were despising it with “a drop in the ocean” into an organized war of resistance and thus made a legend of a drop overturning the ocean.

The victory of the Allies over Nazism in Europe, the defeat of Japanese imperialism in Asia and the foundation of the UNO raised the desire to build a new world based on the justice and freedom.

However, I was greatly astonished at the fact that when the war started in the Korean peninsula the US proud of itself the “mightiest” in the world and its fifteen satellite states organized the allied forces by abusing the name of the UN in order to bring the Korean people to their knees.

The Western world propagandizes the Korean War was the “southward invasion of the north Korean communist army egged on by the communist Kremlin.” But it became a de facto that in fact the Korean War was started by the northward invasion of the Syngman

Rhee's puppet army according to the political scenario of the United States nervous at the eastward expansion of socialism.

The heroic struggle of the Korean people during the 1950-1953 war attracted the attention of all the world freedom-loving anti-imperialist peoples and the great exploits of President Kim Il Sung won worldwide admiration of the progressive people desiring a righteous world.

The victory in the war by his unparalleled devotion to the freedom and final liberation of his nation, his heroic activities and his miraculous strategy and tactics added another legend in the 20th century to the history of the Korean people together with the Japanese defeat.

The indiscriminate successive offensives which were carried on under the command of Mac Arthur and other reputed US army generals behind the signboard of the UN could not bend the will and strength of the Korean people rallied firmly under the outstanding leadership of President Kim Il Sung and the Armistice Agreement had to be concluded.

After the only two years-old Korean People's Army thrusted the "ever-victorious history" of the US forces being said to have no record of defeat in the annals of wars for hundred years into the dustbin before the face of the world, a small Eastern country Korea yet unknown in the world became salient in the eyes of the world people together with the name of the President. Young people at the time would feel mysterious strength when they heard his name.

Since I was familiar with his name from the youthhood and kept many memories related with it, I naturally felt an uprush of yearning for meeting him, a great revolutionary and outstanding statesman.

I was well aware of the achievements made in the DPRK after the war under his leadership and updated with the news on the successful

progress in making the state construction independent and modernized through the embodiment of the great Juche idea in all fields.

After 14 hours long flight from Kathmandu to Pyongyang via Moscow I finally flew in the air over Korea and at once recognized that the beautiful city below was Pyongyang.

The nice-looking and well-verdured city gave the travelers from foreign countries a new and fresh feeling.

I could not believe that so beautiful and magnificent a city was built on the debris of ravaged city because I had seen many photographs of Pyongyang reduced to ruin by the carpet bombing of the US bombers during the Korean War.

Reporting about the severe destruction of Berlin, the capital of the "Third Empire" by the heavy air-raid of the allied forces in the closing days of the World War Two, the American war correspondent Hatridge in Berlin wrote that the wreckage of concrete per a Berliner amounts to x tons which would take twenty years to clean.

They say there were only a few buildings left undamaged throughout the north Korean territory as well as the capital city. This fact alone will be enough to estimate the density of the US bombing.

How heavy were the air-raids on Pyongyang is proved by the fact that a bomb per head was dropped on the city of 400 000 populations.

Even the US media orchestrated that Korea would not be able to rise even in one hundred years.

However, the city under the wing was quite different. A view of bigger and more splendid city than the one before the war came into my eyes as a stewardess said to me.

Twenty years after the truce, it eloquently tells the unusual

leadership ability of the President.

I visited a socialist country for the first time.

In the airport I received warm welcome from the officials of this country.

From next day I looked round the city, had interesting and wide-ranging talks with the officials of this country and visited factories, farms, schools and shops.

The most interesting of the visits was that to Panmunjom in Kaesong located in the middle of Korea.

It was a hot spot where two hostile armies the KPA and US troops stood face to face and a buffer zone between the armies of the two countries established according to the Armistice Agreement.

The area was also very famous for the *Insam* culture.

While I was talking with many people from ordinary citizens, to workers, farmers and even young pupils, I found that everybody of this country was relating his or her personal interests with the President.

They speak frankly that their happy life, the benefits of the free treatment and bumper crops are entirely thanks to the great leader.

Very impressive in Korea was that children would like to sing a song “We Are Grateful to Marshal Kim Il Sung” and adults “Today’s Happiness Given by the Leader.”

The feeling stemming from the simple and truthful heart of all the people, a small nation which was unknown in the world in the past, but defeated two strong powers in half a century, made me think about it more mysterious than I had heard so far. This further inspired me to see the President.

I never expected, but my earnest dream came true on July 23, 1973,

a season at the height of thick verdure.

I felt great swell of delight when I heard the news that he would meet me.

I was guided to the excellent parlor in the building of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK in the afternoon that day.

Great President Kim Il Sung came out in full smile and took my hands to shake with so friendly and kind look.

The look was so benevolent and attractive.

His ringing voice and grand but kind manner gave him the dignity of a General.

He praised the Nepalese people and His Majesty the King of Nepal and told about the wildlife and flowers of Nepal. This alone was a proof of his erudite knowledge of Nepal.

I was very glad when he highly appreciated the independence our nation had kept throughout our history and the courage of the Nepalese people.

In the interview I asked him several questions.

What I wanted to know most was how Korea could maintain good relations with the strong neighbouring countries China and the USSR (former)

At that time the relations between China and the USSR (former) became so farther estranged to go hostile politically from each other.

The relations between India and China is similar to it.

Nepal was located between India and China whose relations were skeptical because of various political issues. Accordingly, the mutual relations with those two countries was a very difficult and important political issue to us.

He beamed a tender smile upon my hopeful eyes and said: It is very important to maintain independence and go on one's own will. If a nation has no independence it cannot avoid being subjugated by others and if a man has no independence he cannot evade from being a slave. All nations whether socialist, nationalist or what not must have independence. A nation devoid of its own will is not in fact an independent state, it is "independent" in name only.

A nation which lack independence can do nothing of its own will and finally end up in ruin. There is no need to have a regard for others' feelings. If a man goes timeserving he will become an idiot, if a nation pursues flunkeyism it goes to ruin and if a party follows flunkeyism, it makes a mess of revolution and construction, he emphasized.

He said proudly: We are building a fully self-supporting economy in the field of the economy, develop national art in the field of the art and develop everything on the basis of the national character.

Saying that he directed a special attention in educating the young people to hold fast to the independence, he stressed that they had to stick to independence to defend the dignity of the nation and achieve its prosperity.

I still remember that I told him the late King of Nepal too had chosen an independent way of development. When we were going to build a motorway linking our capital to the border of China some forces at home and abroad tried to find fault with us saying that that was an act of sell-out or communism would flood along the road.

He said with a smile : the revolution is not something that can be imported or exported. The right to choose a social system or ideas belongs to each nation or people. He gave me a clear answer that the

unity of countries depended not on a social system, but whether one had independence or not.

His words were really a golden saying giving one great confidence in the strength of one's own nation and people.

Nobody can say in this way except him who carried on the national liberation struggle and the socialist construction relying on his own revolutionary forces.

The assistance of the external forces will be a matter of secondary importance. The people have to be armed with the belief of their own strength and maintain independence and confidence.

When you are dependent on the external forces, you will finally make yourself a puppet which cannot move without their help whatever the process might be.

All the members of the nation should be well aware that they are the masters of their nation and in any case they must depend on their own strength though they may ask for help in case very hard up.

Looking back upon what he said that day I would compare Korea today with its yesterday.

In the past Korea was subject to the invasion and oppression of the great powers including Japan because of its geopolitical location.

The then feudal rulers in this country were deeply engaged in factional strives lost of independence under the manipulation of the great powers.

Therefore, as he said, the garrison of the King's palace was under the charge of the Japanese army in case the pro-Japanese faction gains the upperhand or the Ch'ing army in case the pro-Ch'ing faction gets the better of the other.

After all, the Korean people had to suffer themselves the destiny of the colonial slaves for nearly forty years.

Being the generation which suffered such a bitter misfortune, the Korean people set great store by the independence in all fields of the state and society in order to relieve their coming generations from such a suffering.

In other words, Korea thoroughly embodies the four principles of Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-supporting in economy and self-reliance in national defence.

The socialist construction now in progress in this country is in every way of its own, Korean style, not Soviet or Chinese.

Indeed, his words in the interview were the most valuable views which not only the developing countries, but also all the parties and peoples determined to rise up on their own.

He said: Both Korea and Nepal are small countries and the two peoples were subjected to the oppression and exploitation in the past. From this historical commonness the Korean people hope to unite with the Nepalese people. The difference of the social system or ideas does not make a hindrance in the unity of the countries and peoples.

Just were his words.

Nepal and Korea can promote friendship and develop it because both of them have been liberated from the imperialists' colonial oppression, oppose imperialism all together and strive to build an independent prosperous country.

The great President, while talking, would personally offer me a cigarette and was quite unofficial as if talking with one of his old friends.

Therefore, feeling myself free and easy I made a request to him to

show me the factory where they make fibre from stone (vinalon factory).

The reason why I requested to see the factory was that Nepal was entirely depending on a foreign country in the textile industry.

Nepal was in no condition to cultivate cotton.

He told to an official to comply with my request.

He told me warmly to visit cooperative farms to study the irrigation system of Korea if I have time after the visit to the factory. I was deeply moved.

I could feel his humaneness in his words. Though I did not made a request he was so thoughtful of the difficult farming of the Nepalese peasants.

Gripped by such a noble sense I looked him up by myself at his venerable image just before me.

It was more than I deserved to see the great man and he took me close to him to have a photograph taken company with him just before I parted.

As he said, I visited the factory and went soon to a cooperative farm to see the irrigation system with a great interest. The irrigation system stretched to the top of a high hill.

The people in this country made reservoirs even at the ridge to pump up the water from the rivers to fill them and irrigate even the terraced lands on the low hills as well as the fields.

Nepal is mountainous, so the experience of Korean irrigation system would be very valuable to us.

It was profitable for me to visit the vinalon factory and the irrigation system of Korea. So to speak, I felt quite satisfied because I had come with empty-handed but returned with a great property.

I felt very thankful to the President and now I could be aware vaguely of the meaning of the songs about him which I could hear wherever I went.

As was said, my first visit to the DPRK was a series of days that went through with personal and warm experience on the great personality of President Kim Il Sung which I learned only through words.

Besides, it was a significant visit that gave me a substantial and inspiring experience in my life.

Having returned home with such a great honor, I reported what happened in my Korea visit to the Prime Minister Kritinidhi Vista. He said that Nepal would raise diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level. So far the relations remained at the consular level.

In May next year Nepal and Korea established the diplomatic relationship at the ambassadorial level.

My second visit to Korea which gave me an indelible memory was made in December 1988 when I was at the post of the Foreign Minister.

I received invitations from the Peoples' Republic of China and the DPRK.

Fifteen years passed by since my first visit to Korea. I saw many changes were made in this country during this lapse of time.

Very impressive were fine high-rise buildings, beautiful parks and stadiums, wide and straight motorways and the streets in winter.

I was deeply moved visiting the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, factories, enterprises, farms, etc...

A Korean saying goes that ten years are enough to change mountains and rivers. During past 15 years the speed of change in Korea was literally epochal.

December 9 just the next day after my arrival I had the honour of meeting great President Kim Il Sung for the second time in my life.

When he walked in full smile enough as much as light the wide hall to warmly embrace me, I was overwhelmed with great pride.

I would have been glorious enough with a handshake with such a great man, and he was so kind to embrace me as if he met one of his old friends. I will never forget the honorable happy feeling I felt at that time.

He gave us a warm welcome to our visit to Korea and said that though Korea and Nepal were different in the social system, the two countries could be on friendly terms uniting and cooperating each other because they strive for the same ideal.

He added that since both Korea and Nepal are small and developing countries they need to help and learn good experiences each other.

I said to him that in this visit too I could witness the great successes the Korean people achieved under the wise leadership of His Excellency President and in particular, was greatly moved at the wonderful successes made in the field of science and technology in Korea.

That day I had a long talk with the President. What especially impressed was that he recollecting my last visit to the vinalon factory said that Korea could willingly transfer the Korea's vinalon technology if the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal wanted it.

At the moment, I felt again a great shock. So busy as a statesman, he was still remembering even such a trifle thing 15 years ago, and more touching to my heart was the fact that it was related with the matter of clothing of the Nepalese people.

I still think that if the matter I had suggested 15 years ago was of an international important issue, it would not have been sought out of

the memory of an ordinary mind. I think that because it was so urgent problem to the Nepalese people the same with the Korean people and further to the humanity and their life, he took it to his heart so long and today showed his generosity willing to give us disinterested aid.

During the interviews with him twice I keenly felt that though much was said so far about his distinguished personality, I hold that the priority has to be put to his gifted benevolence to the human being.

Benevolence to the man was all he was possessed of.

He emphasized unforgettably, when I met him first in the early 1970s, the independence of countries and the idea of independence in politics which he consistently held fast to in the building and defence of the state in Korea. I think his words came from the starting point of his boundless love for the people.

Being a personifier of genuine human love, he stood, as I have said before, in the van of the hard wars against Japan and the US, feeling the suffering of the oppressed as his own to save the destiny of the motherland and the nation.

Let me say in passing that a man of clear intelligence, he had genius for the literature as well as mathematics and physics enough to sit in a top seat in the first-rate universities in Korea, Japan or China at the time of national tribulations and live in clover with the knowledge. It was said that already in the early period of his preparing the anti-Japanese war the CPSU leadership invited him to study in their country and the top-level executives of Japan, a suzerain state, whatever the ulterior motive, promised to him the autonomy of Jiandao and high posts such as a commander of its occupation forces in Korea.

However, he treasured more of the destiny of the nation in distress

than his own happiness to volunteer himself to the sacred war for the human liberation and human love called an armed struggle at the risk of his life.

Accordingly, I would like to comment that the decades of his noble revolutionary activities in the twentieth century was rather a bloody lifetime for the love of man than the lifetime of a successful statesman.

Twenty five years have gone by under the bridge since I met President Kim Il Sung to learn from him precious truth. They say that many things past fade with the lapse of time. But I cannot forget the days when I met the great President and learned from him the right path of the politics serving for the welfare of man and the qualities and moral traits as a genuine politician.

President Kim Il Sung was a great sage admired and respected by all, a benevolent and distinguished leader who devoted every moment of his life to the happiness and pleasure of the people and a great man of humanity who would inspire and encourage all kindly and sincerely he met.

It is certain that anybody can love, but only the great man can bestow a genuine love to the man.

Sea and Gulls

By
Osorsurengin Cherma
Former Kim Il Sung School staff in Mongolia

I used to indulge in the remembrance of the Korean people's benevolent father President Kim Il Sung in every anniversary of his demise.

A philosophical phrase goes that there is the great in the commonplace. The relation with the common is accounted much of in the consideration of a great man too. It is because there is the mark that distinguishes the quality of a great man.

In this sense too President Kim Il Sung who I respect greatly was the best of the world renowned statesmen.

I am a Mongolian ordinary woman. My family, job, looks and all are common. But I am a blessed woman who had the honour of meeting great President Kim Il Sung four times; honour even renowned personages of the world were unable to be loaded with.

I took a pen to describe though simple about how wide, deep and warm was his embrace in which he set store by ordinary men and women and gave benevolence.

Truly Magnanimous

It was one day in mid-July 1956, nearly 60 years ago.

At that time I, working in the Kim Il Sung School which was bringing up the war orphans from Korea, had been spending happy days of camping together with the school's children in Shargamory some way off Ulan Bator during the summer vacation. That day we received very happy news that President Kim Il Sung would visit Mongolia following the visits to the USSR and East European socialist countries.

The children jumped on air with joy.

They threw themselves into each other's arms and wept in the expectation of seeing their father Marshal.

Seeing they delighted, we the school staffs too were quite excited. We also hoped to see him on this occasion.

At that time as all the other people in the world did, we Mongolians too very much respected the ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander President Kim Il Sung who excited the world by making the arrogant Americans bite the dust in the Korean War.

I thought myself what he would be like, he would certainly be imposing, stern and a general-styled man.

I felt very much regret. If I were in Ulan Bator, I would welcome him even along the route. There was no way to see him in this far away camping site.

Sobering down myself I took care to calm down the children.

"Take easy. How can you see him in this far away camping place?"

"Mother Cherma, he will certainly come to see us."

"It is only your hope. He is very busy for the state affairs. He would not be able to make time to see you."

"Yes, he will". They burst out cry denying my words.

I also wept at the touching sight. How much did they long for their kith and kin? I felt tears chokingly. They bereft of their parents by the American troops had to come to an alien land different in nature and language. How much did they miss their parents?

However, what happened the next day reversed my expectation. The next day he arrived in Mongolia and he found his way straight to our camping site in Shargamory.

On his arrival the camping site was all afire with the delight. The children ran to him shouting loud and he, rushing forward, opened his arms.

I had seen him first in full smile in simple attire.

The children called him "Marshal…" rushing to his embrace tumbling upon him. He said to them: How are you getting on? I came to see you because you likely think of your parents. I am your father.

"Father…."

"He is our father!"

The children were hanging on to him in tearful smile and he pampered them all saying "Yes, I'm your father."

I looked at him with wonder, who took the hundreds of children bustling around him in his embrace in full smile.

He was really generous, warm and benevolent quite beyond my expectation that he would be majestic and stern.

That day he looked round every nook and corner taking the children by the hands. He saw the beds in the bedroom, tasted the food in the

dinning hall and saw the art performances of the children.

Time flew by. It was time for him to say good bye, but the children did not let him go.

Soothing them he said to the children : the Mongolian teachers and nurses are the same with your own parents. So you have to refrain yourselves from troubling them, become good boys and girls and good at your study.

“Yes, father Marshal!” The naive children answered courageously in a sonorous voice, but I felt moved to tears at his grateful words and benevolence that he knew the trouble and sincerity of our staffs unknown to others.

The children were filled with the sorrow of parting with him stamping feet.

He was hugging them, stroking and tapping their backs and asked in a hoarse voice: Don’t you have anything you need? Tell me anything without hesitation. Come on…

When he repeatedly asked they told him they feel like to taste the Korean soy sauce and bean paste.

“I see. I will send the soy sauce and bean paste.” Said he, and asked again what they wanted. The children in tears answered him with a shake of their heads there was nothing more.

He repeatedly said them to be good in their study and before he got on the car he warmly shook hands of every staff of the school.

He took my hand too, repeatedly thanking me for my trouble in bringing up the children and requesting to us good care of them. At that time I saw his eyes wet.

He so valued the innocent young children, simple women caring

after them and all the ordinary people.

"Truly magnanimous he is!"

It seemed to me his embrace was a sea I so revere. I felt it at the first moment of seeing him.

My country Mongolia has a proud history and tradition and wide territory, but no sea. Hence we Mongolians called as "courageous and tough men" much yearned for the sea from long ago. Probably the reason why the supreme title of honor of the aristocratic tribal leader (Themuchin), a famous general and enterprising politician, who set up the Mongolian Empire, most powerful in our history was called Genghis Khan (It implies that he is possessed of a merit as magnanimous as a sea).

As for me who was born of a nomadic tribe and grew up riding horses in the steppe the sea I know only from hearing was a mysterious world.

Why do I try to refer to the sea, while trying to write the reminiscence of President Kim Il Sung yearning for him? It is because the embrace of the President who built a Juche-oriented socialist paradise in Korea in the East in the 20th century could only be compared with the sea I so longed for from my childhood.

From then on I have not thought the Korean children of the school were orphans, because I have regarded them as the real children of the President Kim Il Sung.

I could not refrain myself from the impulse that I would give them at least some of the warm love on behalf of him.

I could not imagine at that time that my thought budded in my heart on that day would make the relation between President Kim Il Sung so

respected in the world and a Mongolian ordinary woman so close.

Really Warm

It seems a few days ago to have seen him, full three years passed by. The children grew up to adolescence: boys grew dark under the nose and girls had their breast full.

It was time for them to go home.

As the day approaches one after another, I would spend sleepless nights thinking sorry to part with them. I have worked for more than seven years from the time when the Kim Il Sung School was set up in Mongolia in the autumn of 1952 at the midst of the war in Korea. During these years I grew much attached to them.

I wondered myself that my affection to them grew more and more since the meeting with President Kim Il Sung.

It was unbearable for me to be separated a moment with them. I regarded them more valuable and beautiful than my children by blood.

One day in early June 1959 a thought came across in my mind while I was helping them with preparation for their return home.

What about for me to follow the children to Korea and tell to the President : Great Marshal, I brought the children you loved so much back to your embrace. They are all courageous and good in their study too…

He would be very glad. The thought made my heart leap with joy.

The thought to see his smiling face once again I had seen in the camping site in Shargamory grew stronger.

However, I soon felt disappointed.

At that time the Mongolian Government planned to dispatch a government educational delegation to Korea and on the occasion take the children home.

I was regretful, but I could not help it.

I have never felt so bitterer than that time in my life.

I lost appetite and had my eyes swollen.

One day before the parting with the children I was surprised with an unexpected news that I was included in the government educational delegation.

At first I did not believe in it. But I came to know it true after I heard from the Foreign Ministry and officials concerned that the Korean side requested to include me, an ordinary staff member of the Kim Il Sung School, in the delegation.

How did the Korean Government understand my inmost thought?

It seemed to me like a dream and I had great doubt as much.

This was how I could make a foreign travel to Korea for the first time in my life.

My delight at the time was beyond description. I felt a swell in my heart with the excitement as much as the children going home.

President Kim Il Sung met us in Pyongyang on June 19, 1959.

He personally came out to welcome us and shaking our hands one by one said thanks for our taking the children back home.

I was too excited to say enough my greetings to him. Gripping my hands he said that I would have gone much trouble to care after the Korean children and he would not forget it, repeatedly shaking my hands.

I was quite at a loss listening to his warm and sincere words.

How meticulous and prudent a man he is…

I have done nothing special, taking care of the war orphans from Korea. I have done merely as all the mothers on earth do bringing up their children, being chary of them thinking me as their mother when they miss their own mother, making special dishes to those lost of appetite, feeling their foreheads to see if they have fever or going for a boy brimful of mischief.

Looking up to him, I felt more seeing the real father of the children whom I had given affection to than seeing the supreme leader of the Korean Party and State.

He repeatedly expressed gratitude for bringing up hundreds of Korean War orphans when the Mongolians were still hard up because now it was only a few years since the Mongolian Government had started the peaceful construction after a long disturbances by the revolution followed by the civil war and on the heels of it the World War Two.

Then recollecting his visit to the camping site to see the Korean children in Mongolia, he spoke highly of the trouble the school staffs had gone through.

Much obliged for his words and warm look I stood up to say that we had done what we had to do, it is nothing compared with the care and love of the President and thanked him for making time to meet us.

Motioning me to take a seat, he repeated he would not forget those who had taken care of the children with all sincerity.

I really felt happy. I felt swell in my heart hearing his warm and inspiring words and having a photograph taken with him.

Everything seemed to me a dream. The honours continued. I was awarded an Order of the DPRK. I was very much at a loss.

What on earth am I? What have I done enough to receive such an award...?

In addition, leaving Ulan Bator I was anxious to know how the Korean Government knew my hope and invited me.

I frankly spoke about my thought to a Korean official who was sincerely congratulating me for being invested the high-class order.

I heard from him that the President saw to invite me and award the high-class order to me.

Seeing me choking with emotion he said that to value the common people was his disposition. He went on: He works and lives always among ordinary people including workers and peasants. He obtains wisdom from them to work out policies and achieve successes by bringing out their ability. For him the ordinary people are his comrades and friends.

The gist of his words implies that the President is greater because he valued ordinary people.

Really his embrace was warm. I felt it when I met him the second time.

Really Unfathomable

Years flew by and I have become a grandmother.

July the first, 1988 Ulan Bator pervaded in the festive mood. It was because President Kim Il Sung was visiting Mongolia again a long time since.

So excited from the previous day I could not contain myself.

Can I see him?

This one thought made me wide awake all night looking back upon the past days. I could not control the attraction to him in my mind. I hurried to start accompanied by my daughter, Oyuntzetzeg, determined to go see him with no definite reason in view.

To think of it now, my behavior was really laughable and unbecoming conduct of an old woman quite dark with the worldly affairs. However, I had nothing else to think of at the time except seeing him in any way.

Drawn by the hand of my daughter without knowing where I went I stopped and hesitated before the governmental guest house with the national flag of the DPRK fluttering.

All of a sudden, I was afraid whether the President recognized me.

I began to count on my fingers. Thirty two years passed since I saw him first in Mongolia and twenty nine years since I saw him in Korea. I held back.

The saying goes that ten years are enough to change mountains and rivers, and now thirty years after, can the President remember me?

I doubted that he remember me still for I had done nothing worthy of remaining in his memory, and I am no renowned social activist. All I have done was merely to have taken care of the Korean children in my youthhood.

I left the place reluctantly shaking my head.

But, after some steps I turned back again.

Because it occurred to me that he had said with all sincerity with a bright smile and warm look that he would not forget me.

Maybe he would not recognize me, I thought, but if I could see him even in a far distance, I would have my wish fulfilled.

With a troubled heart with this thought I rashly went to the guest house and said them to allow me to see President Kim Il Sung.

“There is not a moment to spare in the schedule of the Head of State on visiting foreign country. I fully understand you. But you grandmother, I fully understand you will not know how busy he is. Sorry, I can’t allow that.” The officials persuaded me to go back. At first I insisted without any reason, yet their earnest words dissuaded me a good deal from continuing to insist.

But, I do not feel like turning back. At the nick of time a Korean official came there. I repeatedly explained in detail my wish to him. He looked at his watch with a perplexed look, but with a smile he said to me “I see, Grandmother. Wait a minute.” and went in somewhere.

Who would imagine this imprudent old woman could meet the President?

Informed of my coming accompanied by my daughter he called us to him soon.

He was very glad to see me.

Shaking my hands whose making a bow to him, he said that he was very pleased to see me and you remind me of those days long past. And he asked my health.

Hearing his warm words and seeing his full smile, I could not repress my tears at his hair turned grey.

“I so longed for you. Great President, I sincerely wish you healthy.” Thanking me for my care in tears he said taking me and my daughter by his sides he said: We have seen after a long time. Let us have a souvenir photograph taken.

Then he seated us by his sides and said to me: I think very thankful

for your sincere care to bring up our war orphans during the hard wartime in our country. Our people will never forget your merits.

Overwhelmed by his words I rose up and said: "Comrade President, I am very thankful for your remembering an ordinary woman like me and giving me such grateful words."

My daughter Oyuntzetzeg too was so excited that she repeated her words of thanks to him.

Time passed by unawares….

Feeling regret of the shortage of time to have a talk longer he said to me to do more good work for strengthening of the friendship between the two peoples.

It was an honor and happiness more than I deserved.

I came to know how the honor and glory of our meeting him was arranged on the next day after he left Ulan Bator to return home.

That day his schedule was very much crowded; presentation of gifts from the Mongolian Heads of the Party and State, visit to the students and children's palace, visit to the village of the dairy cow workteam of the Partisan State Agro-stock Farm….

The schedule for him that day was really very tight. He sacrificed even a few minutes of recess to meet me.

I was embarrassed to know of it belatedly and filled my heart with tears of gratitude for his magnanimous and warm considerateness.

I was not much enlightened and moreover dark about something like etiquette since I had no experience of working in any state offices.

However, I am sure that there has been no head of state like President Kim Il Sung in any era or country who would make time without regard to the diplomatic formalities to meet an ordinary foreign

woman like me. Yes, there is none other than President Kim Il Sung.

"His embrace is really unfathomable." This is what I assured myself when meeting him for the third time:

His Ever-lasting Love

My daughter and I spent day after day in excitement after meeting President Kim Il Sung.

We could not calm ourselves thinking over and over again when we could visit Korea.

The day came at last at the end of December, 1988.

The President kept his words and invited us to Pyongyang.

We arrived in Pyongyang on December the 30th. Just as we were getting down from the wagon, dignified gentlemen and beautiful women of forties ran to us.

"Mother,"

"Mother Cherma,"

At first I was astonished.

I took a close look at them. They were certainly the erstwhile children of the Kim Il Sung School now grown up. It was my great pleasure to see them.

"My sons, my daughters,"

It was an emotional scene of meeting calling each other laughing and weeping for joy.

I asked them how they knew my coming to Korea.

They said "President told us to meet you on arrival."

"President?!"

I felt a lump in my throat. My second visit began this way.

Pyongyang changed to a grandiose and beautiful city completely different from the look 29 years ago.

Next day my daughter and I were invited to the New Year's Day performance given by the school children in Pyongyang at the presence of the President.

All the performing children seemed young angels.

I was deep in thought seeing the bright children happily singing and dancing that they were the sons and daughters of the President and looking up to him who would first give applause and wave his hand to them with a sunlike smile whenever the items of the program were shifted.

I keenly felt that he was rather the father of the millions of children of this country than the war orphans I have once given great affection.

His embrace was so broad, deep and warm.

I felt it not only in the performance, but also everywhere I went during my visit to Korea.

That one thought stuck to my heart wherever I went such as a kindergarten, a school, a factory, a farm, a street or a village and whenever I had a talk with anybody, men and women and young and old.

I thought that his embrace was wider and deeper than the Lake Hopsugol the biggest and most loved by the Mongolians.

While my daughter and I enjoyed the New Year's Day and were given full treatment as state guests in the special care of the President, another honor was waiting for us.

A few days before he called us to see the opera "Tale of *Chunhyang*"

together and on January 16, 1989 he specially made time to see us. Receiving our respectful greetings he said: I am very glad to see you. I regard you our comrades-in-arms.

Then highly appreciating that the Mongolian people took care of the Korean War orphans during the past Korean War, he went on to say: At that time Mongolia also was in a hard time, but for all that she brought up hundreds of our war orphans.

I am very grateful for that.

Much obliged at his sincerity I found no words to thank him.

He cleared my awkward position by asking that I met those whom I had taken care of.

I told him about my emotional meeting with them and thanked him for his meticulous care for me to meet them.

Saying that they would now be in their forties, he asked me kindly: How is your health? Haven't you felt any inconvenience in life during your stay here? Mongolia is not so far from Korea. So please come often. The summer is a better season.

Too gracious I answered : Great President, I want to come to Korea often. But that would be giving you too much trouble.

He laughed a hearty laugh and said: No, your coming gives me no trouble. Please come to our country regarding it as your home.

Much obliged I rose up, but could not find proper words to thank him. And after a while I only bowed wishing him long life.

Saying thanks for my words, he proposed to have a photograph taken and stood us on his both sides. After having a photograph taken he gave us a great deal of unforgettable precious gifts.

Imagine how grateful I had been when he called me an ordinary

woman his comrade-in-arms and taking my hand to put golden ring with his name on my finger.

I admired him swallowing my tears running down my cheeks.

Bright smile, warm look…all of him was magnanimous and benevolent. How wide and deep his love is!

A thought came across my mind.

In my girlhood riding a horse in the steppe I longed to see a sea in which white gulls fly in the air, the widest, longest and most energetic waves are ceaselessly rolling…. I have seen and felt with all my heart the blue sea I longed for so much from my girlhood, the sea of love and humanity, in the heart of the President.

Indeed, if the embrace of the President was as large as a sea, I would be compared with a gull flying in it.

Now that I became a happy gull flying over broad sea, I was much enlightened and further profound in thought, so that I entitled my reminiscence in a simple poetic way “Sea and Gull”.

Gulls can fly because there is the sea. As the sea embraces gulls, so the embrace of President Kim Il Sung is the cradle of the common working people like me.

Just as ordinary workers and peasants grew to heroes or deputies deciding state affairs in the DPRK, so I, Cherma, too became as a woman renowned in the world from a Mongolian woman of no mark.

I was known almost both in Korea and Mongolia and many in other countries, too.

President Kim Il Sung was greeted more warmly from all walks of life in the world and lauded as the greatest of the great men because he devoted all his life to the wellbeing of the ordinary people.

Model of Noble Ethics

By
Rolph Haguel,
Chairman of the Communist Workers' Party of Sweden

There is the tale of “The Thousand and One Nights”.

If a collection is to be made with the stories great President Kim Il Sung left in his foreign activities it will surely far surpass “The Thousand and One Nights”.

In his lifetime he is said to have met more than 70 000 foreigners from 136 countries.

His humaneness, warm-heartedness and fragrance of personality were indeed so ardent and noble to attract all who met him and make them admire and respect in all time.

I am going to write down here about the Honecker case and the high model of revolutionary ethics shown by President Comrade Kim Il Sung in the relations with Erich Honecker, the leader of former Democratic Germany.

Communists are those with the highest moral sense.

However, the betrayers of socialism contaminated the lofty ethic world of communists and cast a slur on the image of the communists in the face of the people.

President Kim Il Sung had struck the world with admiration with his great example and defended the communist ethics and moral from the sinister slander of the imperialists to create a high model of communist fidelity.

Honecker Case

What is the "Honecker Case"?

The "case" began from the indictment by the then German authorities blaming him the socialist East German leader as a "criminal" when the Democratic Germany was merged to the Federal Republic of Germany.

German authorities at first had promised to refrain from punishing the East German leader and making any political reprisals.

However, after the "merger" they evicted the communists from public offices and extensively rounded them up and threw them into prison.

Honecker was no exception. But fortunately he was getting medical treatment in the hospital of the Russian Red Army stationed there and under their protection.

So he could avoid the arrest, but deprived of the right to stay no longer in the German land.

Therefore, he flew to the USSR by a military plane of the Russian army in March 1991. In Moscow he had an operation of cardio-carcinoma.

Notwithstanding, the German authorities prosecuted him for the "murder" on the charge ordering to shoot those crossing the border into

West Germany while he had been in power.

Erich Honecker was a steadfast revolutionary. He worked devotedly for the sake of his people and socialism while he was in office as the Party General Secretary of East Germany and Chairman of the Soviet of the State for twenty years.

All the blame for throwing him in such a tough lot of being turned away from the dear motherland and people for which he had devoted his all goes absolutely to the renegades of socialism.

They expelled him from the posts of the Party General Secretary and Chairman of the State Soviet in October 1989 for his opposing their policy of reshuffle and reform and finally sold out East Germany for the dollars.

Honecker, a communist, could never tolerate it.

When he was somewhat recuperated after the operation of the carcinoma he had a press conference in Moscow to condemn the renegades of socialism with great indignation for their sell-out of Democratic Germany.

The reporters asked him what he would do in case they tried to escort him forcibly in custody to Germany.

He answered he would be true to his principles at the cost of his life.

The conference news was widely reported.

Then, the German authorities forced the USSR to send him to Germany to bring him on trial since he was restored enough to speak.

The authority made a bargain about the case with the dollars they had promised to give.

The bargain produced a base plot for transferring him to the

German authorities.

The turncoats issued a deportation order against him to leave the territorial area of Russia till 24 hours of the 13th of December, 1991.

The plot was extremely sinister. It implied that since he had nowhere to go a forced escort would be executed in case he did not leave Russia within the ordered time.

It was a notorious dealing of ruffians lost of moral ethics, conscience and sense of decency.

He could not but take refuge in the Chilean embassy in Moscow with his wife Marcot.

What a lot would fall upon him who hardly sat up after the operation and in addition in so advanced age of 80.

Nobody could predict his ill-fated lot.

The couple in the Chilean embassy appealed to the Government of Chile to help them, but in vain for the pressure from Germany, boasting as a European “power” and “worldly economic might”.

The news was a blow to them.

In fact, there was a proper reason in their refuge in the Chilean embassy and their hope to go to Chile.

When he was in office, he took good care of hundreds of Chileans who sought refuge in Democratic Germany to free from the persecution of Pinochet military regime.

After the fall of the military regime all they went back to their country with a good sentiment to him.

The Chilean ambassador to Moscow was one of them.

He had been the foreign minister before the military regime and later was on the chairmanship of the Chilean Social Party.

The daughter of Honecker got married to a Chilean and lived there.

That was the reason why they took refuge in the Chilean embassy and pinned a hope to go to Chile, but unfortunately it was refused.

No Border in Ethics

Ulla Vesureus, General Secretary of our Party, returned home from Pyongyang who had been to Korea to congratulate the 80th birthday of the great President Kim Il Sung in April 1992.

The detailed report on the visit of the Party delegation to Pyongyang was heard in the Polit-bureau meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Workers' Party of Sweden.

Our Party took an active part in formulating and making a formal announcement the Pyongyang Declaration for holding fast to the independent stand and aspiring for socialism unwaveringly in any adversity of prevailing complicated world situation together with the delegates from the political parties of the world.

Besides, General Secretary Ulla Vesureus informed us of the greetings from great President Kim Il Sung and another invitation of a delegation of our Party.

I was moved very much.

The Polit-bureau meeting decided to send a Party delegation to Pyongyang highly appreciating the close relationship of the two Parties.

I suggested preparing a present to President Kim Il Sung with all sincerity on behalf of the entire members of the CWPS.

The speaker hammer was chosen by the unanimous will of the Party members for the present which would be used whenever an important

decision was adopted in the Party meeting.

A month later in June 1992, I got on board the plane to visit Pyongyang.

Soon after arrival in Pyongyang I together with members of my delegation met Comrade President on 29th of June.

Meeting our delegation in full smile like a sun he said to me: I am very glad to see Comrade Chairman again. I warmly welcome your visit to my country.

Drawn in his unceremonious character, I had a hart-to-heart talk with him at easy mind.

Referring to Honecker the former leader of East Germany I told him that the turncoats of socialism were plotting for making money by selling him ill in bed now in Moscow.

President Kim Il Sung said in quite enraged voice: It is quite deplorable what you said that Russians seem to plot to make money with the former Democratic German leader Honecker now under treatment in Moscow.

It is out of the question to sell out comrade for a trifle of money.

After a while without words he went on to say in a resonant voice: A few days ago he asked me to admit him to receive treatment in our country. I got the report at dawn one day. Comrade Kim Jong Il called me about 4:00 a.m. saying it was very urgent. He said to me that Honecker sent us a letter of wishing to receive treatment in our country.

Since there was nothing else to think more I told him out of hand to notify him that we would welcome him to come to our country to receive treatment and provide him with all conditions needed.

His voice in the room was low, but rolling.

I felt warm in my heart listening to his words.

Though his request was refused from the Chileans, he did not lose heart. Times may change, but he had a firm belief that President Kim Il Sung would never forsake him.

Honecker thought deep in bed of his fate, and then made up his mind. He told his wife Marcot:

"Let us go to President Kim Il Sung. That is the only way out for us."

Marcot was the same with him.

It was when President Kim Il Sung visited Democratic Germany at the invitation of Honecker. He gave a return banquet in honour of Honecker.

At the banquet Marcot, Minister of General Education and wife of Honecker, sincerely concerned the health of President Kim Il Sung worrying his pains during the tense foreign visits.

President Kim Il Sung answered that day: It is all right. This long travel will help to strengthen the friendship and unity between the socialist countries.

Honecker was moved and said to him:

"Today you spend the last night in Berlin. We wish you have a good sleep tonight.

The problem is, sometimes an airplane flies by over the guest house making noise. It is because an airport was newly built nearby. There had been no such a noise there before.

Now the eastward wind brings the noise. Very sorry not to take a measure beforehand."

That night there was no air booming over the Nidershen Houzen

Palace Comrade President was staying.

Honecker was such a man.

He was an absolute advocator of the ideas of Marx and Engels, geniuses of mankind, priding himself on being born in their country.

He visited Korea in 1977.

President Kim Il Sung would recall him often. The next spring he met Himmelaihi, a former old chairman of the management committee of the Kolchov Production Cooperative, when he said: I have a close friendly relationship with Comrade Honecker. I respect him for the good contributions for the people of the German Democratic Republic.

Comrade President recalled his visit to Berlin with deep emotion and said as follows: I am very grateful for the great concern of Comrade Honecker for me when I visited your country last year. I will never forget it.

Honecker, fully knowing of President Kim Il Sung, began to write to him.

"Respected Comrade President Kim Il Sung,

I was allowed to stay within the territory of the Russian Federation till the 13th of December, 1991.

…I think it will be very favorable for my health if I receive treatment in your country.

If possible, I hope that you take necessary measures concerned with this through the DPRK embassy in Moscow.

With communist greetings.

Erich Honecker,

December 11, 1991

Moscow"

The Korean embassy in Moscow dispatched emergency message to Pyongyang.

Comrade Kim Jong Il was briefed of this at 4:00 a.m. the dawn of December 13.

He immediately made an emergency call to President Kim Il Sung to report that Honecker who took refuge in the Chilean embassy in Moscow affected by the deportation order conveyed a letter of his wish to receive treatment in Korea.

President Kim Il Sung fully approved of the emergency order to be taken by Comrade Kim Jong Il and told to notify to him that we welcome for Honecker to receive treatment in Korea and would provide with all the conditions needed. Then he added : When Norodom Sihanouk had fallen from powers in Cambodia and had had no one to depend upon we accepted him, took care and inspired him for long though he was not a communist to return home at last as the leader of Cambodia. Now that Honecker is a communist, there is every reason to receive him.

It was a decision only Comrade President Kim Il Sung could take, who regards the revolutionary obligation as a revolutionary's outlook on life.

There was no country willing to receive a former communist leader since it was a time when the East European countries collapsed and the so-called socialist superpower USSR was separated to cause a "sudden fall" of communists' popularity.

The countries with a good-will dared not accept Honecker due to stand on trial reading the movements of Germany and Russia.

At that time the negotiations were going on to establish diplomatic relations and the "fruit" was just on the point of ripening.

It was not a small “fruit”.

However, in case Honecker came to Korea the “fruit” nearly ripened would fall off.

Korean diplomatic officers could not find a way out to help him knowing his sad plight.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung valued the moral ethics more than any “fruit” in diplomatic relations.

He resolutely spoke discussing the case of Honecker with Comrade Kim Jong Il: We should bring him although we fail to establish diplomatic relations with Germany.

He called the officials again and stressed as follows:

If we bring Honecker, the relations with Germany may turn bad. But we have to keep the revolutionary fidelity.

His words were the manifestation of his firm will.

He deliberated detailed measures to bring Honecker.

4:00 a.m. in Korea was about 10:00 p.m. on the 12th in Moscow time.

Honecker had only about one day’s time limit.

After seeking the soonest way of bringing him he made up his mind to use the Korean airliner between Pyongyang and Moscow.

Comrade Kim Jong Il told him that there was a Korean airliner scheduled to depart Moscow at the night of the 12th of December at the local time. He would ask to the Korean embassy if they could bring him by that airliner and if possible he would immediately take a measure to execute as told.

But if it is impossible to bring him by the airliner due to depart at the night of the 12th at the local time, he would see to it that he would

be moved to the Korean embassy in Moscow so as to bring him later by our airliner to Pyongyang.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung fully approved the plan.

Now began an ultra emergency operation to rescue Honecker.

An emergency order was issued to the institution concerned and an emergency team formed to take charge of the rescue operation.

The first emergency message was sent to Moscow as below: Pass our approval on to Honecker. Suspend the departure of our airliner due to Pyongyang from Moscow. Suspension unconditional. Departure time pending. Make passengers understand.

The Korean embassy in Moscow as ordered requested his exit permit to the USSR and RSFSR agencies concerned.

However, the request was turned down. Another measure was needed. In the meantime it dawned.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung had again consultation with Comrade Kim Jong Il.

Comrade President instructed to call the ambassador of the USSR to DPRK to notify the stand of the Korean side and request an appropriate assistance.

As instructed by Comrade President the Vice-Foreign Minister called the Russian ambassador to tell the stand of the Korean side.

The other party seriously accepted the stand of the Korean side. Follows the suggestion:

Honecker proposed to come to Korea to receive treatment. We are going to provide him with necessary assistance and accommodation from a humanitarian standpoint. We know that he is now in the Chilean embassy in the USSR. By the way, he will have to stay in Moscow for

a while because of the flights. We are ready to accommodate him in our embassy for the time being. We hope that your country will give an active help to it.

The RSFSR permitted to extend the limit of his stay till the 16th.

This got him over the hump for a while.

From then another campaign got off the ground to rescue Honecker.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung saw to take full advantage of the time gained and launch more energetic activities.

At this time Germany sent to Korea a letter of protest.

Korea answered to it this way:

"We approved his request to receive our medical treatment. We regard that treating a man ill in bed is fundamental from either the humanitarian principle or the human rights standpoint."

The spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health released a press talks clarifying the humanitarian stand of Korea on the 14th of December and the letters of the Korean Foreign Minister were mailed to the Minister of the External Relations of the USSR and the Foreign Minister of the RSFSR on the 15th.

On the 16th a special instruction was issued to all the Korean embassies abroad to launch an active campaign of publicity.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung saw to encourage Honecker to keep his stand with confidence and notify him that we would do utmost and it would surely succeed.

His words moved Honecker to tears.

Full of confidence he faced the Russian officials with his righteous demand.

"I am now ill in bed. Therefore, I expressed my hope to get

treatment in Korea. I received a positive answer from the Korean side. I will surely go to Korea."

"Now only two days left. Can you?"

"I think I can."

"Then write it down. We will report it to the President."

He wrote his demand to convey it to the Russian authorities.

The Russian authorities gave him no answer. There was no positive answer too to the demand of the Korean side.

After all 16th the dead-line of the deportation order came.

At the critical moment Comrade President Kim Il Sung saw to fly the special airplane to Moscow to bring Honecker.

In early morning of the 16th a Korean large passenger plane landed on the Shermetzevo airport in the suburbs of Moscow.

Nobody was seen coming down the plane because there was no passenger in it.

This made the deportation order against Honecker rested there.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Government announced that it would deny a forced transfer of Honecker to Germany.

So he evaded the danger of a forced deportation.

It was the victory of Korea, of the noble fidelity.

Comrade President Kim Il Sung went on to say about Honecker:

We flew to Moscow our airplane after the approval of his request. However, we had no way to bring him because the Russians did not transfer him to us. I have been knowing of him for long. We are both of an age and on good terms. I feel concern with his fate in the days to come.

The ruin of the nation reduced the people to a checkered lot."

Listening to him, I again looked up to his high humane traits.

Always Alive In Memory of All People

The Honecker case caused a great sensation in the world.

"I was deeply impressed with the communist moral ethics.

I was struck with admiration of the communist fidelity of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

As Fidel always says in admiration of him, he is the greatest of great men and the truest man of men.

Through the Honecker case people of the world looked again upon his high personality with respect." (Cuban ambassador in Geneva)

"I respect the moral ethics of the President.

When Honecker was in office, everyone treated him as a state guest, but once ousted, everybody turns a cold shoulder to him….

I was moved by your offer to give him treatment with a good sense of duty with him at the time.

I know full well the high personality of the esteemed President Kim Il Sung through the relations with Sihanouk. I have an infinite respect to his moral ethics." (Member of the Supreme Council of the National United Party of Malaysia)

"Your Excellency President,

I was struck with wonder when you took a humanitarian measure for Honecker fallen in a misfortune. I pay high regards to you about this.

As he fell and out of service as a statesman, all his former allies except you turned their back upon him.

Your Excellency President,

What I admire most is your keen sense of fidelity to old friends of yours that you have shown in spite of a change of their destiny, the great sense of duty that almost does not exist in the world we now live.

You fully supported and actively encouraged Samdech Norodom Sihanouk without any consideration for him to return home as a statesman.

…

Your country alone extended a helping hand to Honecker. It was a noble humanitarian measure which will make you always alive in the memory of all people." (A letter from a US journalist)

Great Comrade Kim Il Sung came to protect him when those who once extolled him to the skies as "an outstanding leader of the German people", "one of renowned activists of the international communist movement", "the most reliable ally" and "a close friend and comrade" had thrown him as worthless. With this great example of revolutionary faith he commanded the admiration of the world, defended the communist moral ethics from the vicious slander of the imperialists and made a noble pattern of communist revolutionaries characteristic of high fidelity.

In the summer when the delegation of the Communist Workers' Party of Sweden returned home after the visit to Korea Honecker returned to Germany.

He showed a grand mettle of a communist in the court.

"I am a communist. I dedicated my life to the cause of the German people and had done nothing bad. I lived up to the Constitution. I have not a penny deposited in a foreign bank. The trial upon me is a wrong act of political reprisal."

The world public opinion supported his claim and criticized the authorities for the trial. After all, the trial was dropped.

Afterwards he went to his daughter in Chile troubling with illness.

Honecker had not been to the house built for him on the bank of River Taedong in Korea and died in an alien land of Latin America on May 29, 1994.

President Kim Il Sung Eternal Sun of Love and Trust

By

Nuri Carnero Diaz, daughter of Genaro Carnero Checa (Peru)

Another round of the Day of the Sun dawns on this planet.

In the morning of Korea's Day of the Sun in April resplendent with spring scenery on the land and riotous with fragrant flowers I look up to the smiling image of President Kim Il Sung, father of all peoples, in my mind's eye in the most humble reverence in Mexico over the ocean. I express warm respect to him straightening myself.

President Kim Il Sung our father whose name is familiar to us looks at me with bright smile like the sun. I fancy that I hear his voice asking how I have been during those days, the daughter of Genaro Carnero Checa, loving comrade-in-arms in Latin America.

I feel tears welling up in my eyes as I look up to his smiling image overflowing with the warm love and trust.

His name implied to us a synonym of heavenly love and trust. In some respect my father Checa and my family was the most blessed of all the darlings of fortune who had all his love and trust to ourselves.

The memories of those days long past full of emotion, delight and happiness are still fresh and vivid in my mind. Beyond description are

the legendary stories about the benevolence and credit which we had in a car running in the streets of Pyongyang called by Kim Il Sung or in the receptions and places of honour.

An aphorism says: "It is unfortunate that we cannot draw directly with our eyes what we witnessed. How many good are lost while that is rendered by means of a pen via a hand from our eyes."

Really I feel something wanting because I cannot convey all the great love and credit given to us by President Kim Il Sung.

However, I made up my mind to write down to make known, though not all, the lofty love and trust given to us by the great man on this significant morning of the Day of the Sun.

Unforgettable Days of Interviews

Love and credit are priceless.

They are the crystallization of the most beautiful and sublime feeling and sincerity which only man, a social being, can possess.

A man devoid of love and credit is not a man in the true sense of the word, and that society cannot be called a society of men. In this sense it can be said that the human history evolved to seek the love and credit throughout its whole course.

This precious love and credit is not given by the God or goddess of love. Love and credit are only given and taken among men.

The love and credit in the human world are varied, those between parents and children, between husband and wife, between comrades or between sovereignty and subject. Among these love and credit the most honorable and happiest to a man is the one from a leader and great men.

My father Checa and mother and all our family received such love and credit, the greatest fortune in those days of meeting President Kim Il Sung of Korea.

The lucky day that we met him for the first time was October 11, 1972.

My father was having pleasant days visiting Korea accompanied by my mother and me in the name of the chairman of the Peruvian Journalist Federation and chairman of the Peru-Korea Friendship and Cultural Association. We heard unexpectedly that we were called by President Kim Il Sung. How much we yearned for him at another end of the earth across the ocean!

All of us fancied dreaming. We could not calm ourselves.

The sun of October high in the blue sky was pouring down dazzling sunlight. The sky and sunlight seemed to bless us to have an honorable fortunate good luck.

As we enter the hall of the Cabinet building he was waiting for us before a lift, and coming forward to us.

"Ah, he is President Kim Il Sung!" We exclaimed beside ourselves and ran toward him. A veteran of the world revolution and great man of love and credit, he was always in our heart in all the adversities of the struggle for the independence against the US….

Tall and stout, handsome and benevolent look in full smile, he stood there opening his arms as if calling us to come right in.

At the moment we got stiff and stood for a while. Then bracing ourselves up, we bowed low and said words of greetings. He shook our hands one by one from my father, mother and me and took us for a photograph taken.

Then, he seated us for an interview and kindly asked us all healthy.

Father stood up to say respectfully : We are as fit as a fiddle. We have been accorded warm hospitality staying in Korea. We feel very much thankful to you for the deep concern for us and made time to meet us though you are very busy. We also convey to you the greetings from the Peruvian people. Though we far from your country our heart has always been with the Korean people.

President expressed thanks for that and hoped to convey his greetings to the Peruvian people and said in a tone full of love and trust: I am glad to meet you and your family. By the way, I express gratitude for your efforts for the friendship between the peoples of Korea and Peru.

Then he continued: The Peruvian people are struggling courageously against the imperialists. We very much rejoice about your good work for defending the national sovereignty. At present, the US imperialists are on the decline.

My father told him about the continued development of the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle in Latin American countries and his resolve to make the Juche idea created by him as his own and strive to carve out his own destiny by himself. Listening to my father's resolve President Kim Il Sung said : it is very important, who else comes to decide the destiny of the nation if it does not do it by itself. And he added he is very pleased to have a family of his closest friend in Peru. Then, he explained in detail about the economic development in Korea, the south Korean situation and the problem of Korea's reunification.

A fairly long time passed by. However, he gave us precious instructions in a frank, modest and kind way. So simple and warm he

was we felt quite relaxed and harmonious as if we were talking with our parents.

Then, he invited us to the luncheon saying that we come again next year and see Mt. Kumgang then.

My father felt swell in his heart. Very much flattered by his words for a while, he repeatedly said thanks to him for the love and trust given to us.

President Kim Il Sung would propose toasts to my father and us, help us with delicious food, enlightening and inspiring us to live and struggle as vanguards of the anti-imperialist fighters defending Latin America.

That day he gave every one of us gifts such as embroideries and handicrafts, steamed *Insam*, silvery-white vases and bed covers and in the afternoon saw to arrange a meeting and reception to welcome us.

Back in the lodging that evening we spent a sleepless night too excited. Especially I have never seen my father so excited.

"Today I realized what it signifies that a man is honored with genuine love and trust in the embrace of the sun. Men tended for long to entrust their destiny in Jesus, Sakyamuni and other religious creeds or apocalypse of the Divine. But, it was all wrong. If a man really wants to find a right way and bring about his happiness, he must go to the remarkable political leader and a great man. I have had my desire fulfilled because I found the way to the love, trust and independence.

Though I advocated myself a socialist so long, I seem to have become only today a genuine socialist after I have seen President Kim Il Sung."

Staying awake all night repeating these words, my father reminded

of those hard days gone by. He was one of the Latin American fighters who were roving in search of the way for the anti-US independence.

Born in Peru, he entered Lima University of Technology in 1930s. There he joined to be the General Secretary of the "National Students' Red Vanguard," an organization of youth and students adhering to Marxism-Leninism. He was imprisoned nearly twenty times on the "charge" of participating in a leftist movement against the pro-US reactionary dictatorial regime and exiled himself three times to evade their persecution. He went so far as to get sentenced to death in 1965 in a charge of organizing the Peruvian Popular Movement and demonstrations and giving help to the guerrilla struggle, but he was saved by the protest and pressure of the people at home.

In the checkered forty years of his career in journalism at home and abroad he wrote many books aspiring toward the independence against imperialism to win the prize of international journalism in appreciation of the merit.

However, he much aspired after the ideological instructions and assistance of a leader who would guide him to fulfill the mission and role of a journalist and fighter at the forefront of the anti-imperialist and anti-US struggle to the full.

At this point of time he took part in the World Conference of Journalists for Anti-US held in Pyongyang in September 1969 leading the Journalists delegation of Peru. Listening to the congratulatory speech given by President Kim Il Sung he was attracted to him at once. It was because President Kim Il Sung clarified the way my father was struggling so hard to seek wandering many countries and all the journalists of the world aspiring after.

President Kim Il Sung, calling the journalists as precious guests of the Korean people and enthusiastic anti-imperialist political activists, pointed out the inspiring role of the progressive journalists and advanced publications as advocators and disseminators of advanced ideas and spokesmen and organizers of the public opinion and put forth the militant tasks for the progressive journalists.

Reiterating his words and instructions for himself such as build-up of public opinion for the exposure of the US imperialists' war policies and brutalities, the raising of public awareness against the worshiping and kowtowing to, fearing and submitting to and depending on the US, a firm unity of the progressive journalists under the banner of the anti-imperialist and anti-US struggle…

He was full of glee and long looked up to the sagacious and great man.

How great his joy and emotion would have been since he received again the honor of meeting him, precious instructions and benevolence in his third visit to Korea with still indelible impression of the talented speech at the world conference of journalists!

Later he often visited Korea accompanying us and met the President for the instructions worthy of a textbook of human life.

In every interview President Kim Il Sung would explain to us in easy words and in detail from the international and internal situation to the revolutionary principles of the era of independence, so to speak, that the present age is an age of independence, what is the Juche idea and what must be done to apply the Juche idea in reality and etc.

Every time he would inquire our health, took measures for treatment and gave us valuable gifts in full.

In a year he appreciated my father very high that it was rare in the world who fought for the Korean people like you and gave a deluxe car and a golden watch to every one of my family inscribed with his name.

An old saying goes that one must regard him as a mentor if he learnt a letter from someone and make up for a meal from a benefactor with a thousand pieces of gold.

President Kim Il Sung gave us valuable ideological and mental guide for us to take the right course of life and bestowed favours on us heavenly. Then who else on earth is there a greater mentor and benefactor than him?

So much thankful for his love and credit, we would spend day after day of our stay in Korea in great emotion and happiness.

Days of Fascination and Sincerity

The love and trust is strong. There will be nothing stronger than those in the human world. Hence greater emphasis put to love and trust in any superstitious or religious creeds, and those are praised as a good to punish an evil in artistic creations. Some politicians regarded the virtue as the fundamental and tried to rule the public with virtue. This testifies that love and trust have been considered an essence as much strong in the human history.

However, the love and credit President Kim Il Sung regarded as his motto were mythological that have never been and will never be and infinite in their power.

Accordingly, my father and my family often thought that President Kim Il Sung was really an incarnation of love and credit. They say he is

a heaven-sent great man. Some believers even say that he is Jesus Christ resuscitated.

The birth of President Kim Il Sung was a momentous event that the bright rays of love and credit pushed out the darkness of hatred and distrust to bring the light and warmth to the human world as the letter “Il” meaning the sun in his name. Therefore, even the Christians crowd in upon Mangyongdae instead of Jerusalem their holy place.

My father spent days in fascination of Korean President Kim Il Sung the sun of love and credit.

He also admired and longed for the reality of socialist Korea led by President Kim Il Sung.

The destiny of a nation depends on the leader.

As my father often said, Korea was a country of love and trust fascinating the world people to a world of admiration and longing in the warm care of President Kim Il Sung. The countries we have been to were called each in its own way a “country of gentlemen”, a “country of oil”, “country of desert” or a “country of palms”. If I give Korea a pet name in that way, Korea has to be called a country of love and trust in the true sense of the word.

Korea, a country of love and credit, was a mighty nation with a strong people. Though the territory and population were small, every one of them had a strong Juche idea and the nation-first principle to stand firm and dignified in the face of the arbitrariness and any foreign intervention of domestic affairs. They do not dance to other’s tune saying all what they had to say, and beat to a pulp mercilessly those daring to touch a tree or a cluster of grass of their own with the firmly united efforts. Being permeated with love and trust, they are as sharp as

a dagger to the hatred and distrust. Therefore, we Peruvians or Mexicans call those who put up good fight do fight as well as the Koreans do.

Korea, country of love and trust was a country of the people where all are rich in materials and mental condition. Though they were not extravagant or luxurious, they were free from penury and ignorance as provided with the 6 fundamentals for the human life, that is, the three fundamentals of food, clothing and housing plus another three, education, health and culture. In addition to this, all of them have no material and mental poverty because they are armed with the immortal Juche idea and set great store by their history and tradition of the anti-imperialist and anti-US struggle when the world was wandering about with the poverty of the ideas and philosophy.

Korea the country of love and trust was also a beautiful country where beautiful men and women live. My father would compare the Korean people with beautiful men and women. When he said the beautiful men and women, he did not have in mind attractive looks such as Western Cleopatra or Oriental Yang Kouei-fei.

He implied the mental and moral quality of the people with a characteristic of kind-heartedness and elegance.

Korea had a good landscape, but the more beautiful was the human beauty remarkable with tender heart and good behavior. We have witnessed innumerable examples of crystal-clear and soft-hearted mind, that all love comrades, others, collectives and organizations more than themselves and all are affectionate, cheerful, virtuous, simple, earnest, good-natured and generous among themselves. And many were clear of falsehood, hypocrisy, vanity and coquetry, selfishness or greed.

Whenever we face those cases, we would see in our mind's eye

the tragic state of human affairs in the Western capitalist countries pretending to be proud themselves of a “major economic power” or with an advanced material civilization, while thinking an old saying that men are troubled with 800 anguishes.

Men cannot be free from those 800 anguishes in such a world where millions upon millions are hard up for clothing and hunger, pass day after day with the worries of jobs and lack of food, starve to death, die with cold, stabbed to death, killed run over by cars doubled with worries of debt, taxes, illness and burglary. The howls about absence of love, credit and crisis of men is still loud on the earth at present too as in the past. On that account Kant and noted philosophers and social activists brought the question of men’s reason to debate from long time before and Rousseau must have brooded over the matter long to speak out “Man must return to nature.”

However, in Korea everybody lives as the rich of mind free from any worries. What happened in Korea was attractive associating with the “Utopia” of Thomas More or the Oriental legendary “earthly paradise”. Indeed, Korea was an earthly paradise full of love and trust.

It was a reality peculiar to Korea that can be produced only by the mythological politics of love and credit exercised by President Kim Il Sung. For that reason, my father would be captivated with boundless attachment and yearning saying: “My darling Korea, Korea is our home.”

To look back on, the Korean revolution was not only initiated and won with arms, but also by love and trust.

President Kim Il Sung accomplished the liberation of the country fighting his way through bloody battles against Japanese imperialists

with the strength of love and credit and achieved the cause of building up the Party, state and army with the same strength of love and credit. In the hard time after the war when needed to rise up from ruins empty-handed he under a slogan: "Let us build up a new society by the strength of love and trust!" established the Juche-oriented socialist system and built in Korea a blessed land where all people have their wishes fulfilled.

Really the attractive love and trust of President Kim Il Sung was possessed of an almighty power of turning common foreigners like my father into an enthusiastic fighter of anti-imperialist struggle and vanguard of the non-aligned movement and propelling the gigantic social revolution vigorously and winning and reforming the world with the single-hearted unity stronger than a nuclear weapon. Has not such a power of love and credit become the root of the Juche idea.

Therefore, an evening during his stay in Korea my father was moved to tears looking the round moon over the flaming beacon of the Tower of the Juche Idea on the bank of the River Taedong.

It contrasted to the old days when he was shedding tears from the grief and sense of collapse for the destiny of the nation and his own unable to rescue looking up the moon over a church at the night in an alien land where he was exiled on the charge of participating in a leftist movement against pro-US reactionary dictatorial regime.

That night my father braced himself up in the contrasting feeling of grief and emotion. He pledged firmly that night to fight to the last moment of his life in order to live up to the benevolence of President Kim Il Sung, the sun of love and credit and contribute to bring about the society of love and trust in the world.

He kept his allegiance true to the love and trust of President

Kim Il Sung. After the World Conference of Journalists for Anti-US held in Pyongyang he organized the Peru-Korea Friendship and Cultural Association and led this organization to play a pivotal role in bridging the ties of friendship and cooperation through various work in close connection with the Korean Committee for the Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. At the same time, he took an active part in the inaugural meeting of the International Institute of the Juche idea held in Japan and seminars on the Juche idea in many other countries to contribute to the publicity and dissemination of the idea.

Meanwhile, he was busy in various activities for the anti-imperialist independent cause, the establishment of the state relationship between Korea and the Third World, Non-aligned countries including the Republic of Peru and the United States of Mexico and the development of friendship and cooperation between them. Therefore when we see the DPRK national flag fluttering in the air of Peru and Mexico, we would remind of the past busy days of my father.

Being a journalist and writer, he engaged in disseminating the works of President Kim Il Sung and writing for the newspapers and books regarding it as his lifetime work.

My father who had boundless fascination and respect to him during his visits to Korea authored “Korea, Rice and Steel” and “Kim Il Sung, Life-long Dedication to Socialism” which introduced his glorious revolutionary history and lofty virtue and wise leadership and presented them to him.

My father was writing “the 70th Spring” about the revolutionary family and exploits of President Kim Il Sung but passed away all of a sudden without completing his book.

The death of my father was a grief and loss of our family. However, the greater loss was the failure of his allegiance to President Kim Il Sung.

Where could we appeal our sense of loss and forlornness after my father as an international fighter, progressive journalist and writer determined to fight unflinchingly in the way of anti-imperialism and cause of independence energetically shaking the land of Latin America as President Kim Il Sung instructed had passed away leaving so many obligations and responsibility as they were?

We, recalling his last wish in tears that "I want to be by the side of President Kim Il Sung, want to live as his eternal fighter in Pyongyang" determined over again to continue the obligation and responsibility my father could not fulfill to the last in his life.

Excellent Fighter and Loving Comrade

There would be a limit to the love and trust however they are valuable and strong. As the moon is to be on the wane, the love and trust between husband and wife or parents and their children or between contemporaries would fade or be got rotten in the continuing shifts of generations and flow of times. However, the love and trust given by President Kim Il Sung are everlasting.

Sorrowful at the news of the death of my father, President Kim Il Sung sent a telegraphic message of condolence far across the ocean and called all the bereaved family, my mother, me and my brother Roque close to him.

In April 1982 Pyongyang just before the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's birthday was wrapped in a sea of spring flowers

and seething. Though only two years passed since my father had visited lastly the streets and villages of Pyongyang, our affectionate home and the capital city leaped a step higher and showed a wonderful change. We felt tears when we think we alone tread on the grandiosely changed land of Pyongyang near the significant 70th birth anniversary of the President, leaving the soul of my father far across the ocean. This thought pushed our heart more to President Kim Il Sung. He understood our thought and met us amidst so busy with his work.

He warmly hugged us one by one. Like we have met our father after long absence we threw ourselves in his wide bosom. His clothes got wet with our warm tears endlessly flowing down.

After seating us besides him he looked us without words for a while as if relaxing the grief of his loving comrade-in-arms' absence, and then he asked my mother that we still lived in Mexico.

My mother told him that the Mexican government and the Journalists Federation of Latin American offered advantage to live in Mexico. Then she told him that she had to continue the work her husband left unfinished and was entrusted with the task of completing to publish the book "the 70th Spring" in Latin America and Korea within this year that his husband had desired to present the President on his 70th birthday.

Expressing gratitude for this President Kim Il Sung warmly recollected my father:

The news of his death filled me with sorrow.

He was an excellent fighter for the independence of Latin America and the world peace. He gave an unconditional support to the stand of Korea. Checa was one of my close comrades-in-arms, my comrade

and my brother. He worked well to the last moment of his life for the revolution, the mankind and Korea.

His words of grief over the death of an international fighter, high appreciation and warm recollection moved us so great that we burst out sobbing. My mother, my younger brother and I could not keep back our tears flowing down.

President Kim Il Sung gave a tender push to our back in sorrow to the luncheon. Then he said words of consolation reminding of him, his loving comrade-in-arms and brother: I pay respects to the exploits he made. The revolutionary fidelity made between us in the past would be unchangeable. I keep revolutionary fidelity. I would welcome if you live in our country for life.

His thankful words made our sobbing louder again. He went on his words of love and trust: When you have a hard time, please write me without hesitation. I am going to take care of the life of the widow of late Comrade Checa.

As the time passed by, his love and trust to us grew further. That day we parted with him in tears.

In October 1990, eight years later he met us again with the love and trust based on the unchangeable revolutionary fidelity. He remembered my father again with a high appreciation and gave us warm embrace. We met him in a rest house. He said: I am very much thankful for your coming from far and give you warm welcome.

He told my mother look older than he last saw her. Maybe it would be she made living alone without her husband. How many years passed since we have seen last?

We again were moved to tears at his love and trust to us growing

warmer with the passage of time.

He said: Whenever I think of Peru I would think of Checa. The first man in Latin America who began the publicity of the Korean people was Checa. He was the most active man of publicity about Korea.

There have never been such relations of warm love and so thick trust and friendship between a leader of a country and an internationalist fighter in thousands upon thousands of years. Indeed, the magnanimity of President Kim Il Sung remembering and appreciating him highly and taking fatherly care of us the bereaved whenever he met us, in talks or in parties was larger than the universe.

That day we made our pledge again and again to come to Korea, a land of our love often and respect him as our father and an eternal sun of love and trust.

Really President Kim Il Sung was our great father who always remembers my late father and all of us and took care of us always and the immortal sun of love and trust who gave us the greatest fortune.

In his reminiscences “With the Century” he wrote that there were dialogues and friendship between the alive and the dead. I think this passage is meant by the immortality of his love and trust.

Just as the sun is everlasting with its light and warmth giving life to all the creatures of the nature, so President Kim Il Sung is also eternal as the sunlight of love and trust shining the entire universe over oceans and continents and beyond the countries and borders.

The history of his love and trust is today continued on the land of Korea with the “Song of Comradeship”. Though he passed away, the land of Korea is filled with his political spirit. General Kim Jong Il had exercised the policy of love and trust with the same political ideal and

method of benevolence with the President as his motto and now Marshal Kim Jong Un succeeds their lofty ideals.

Indeed, the bereaved of Checa keep deep in their heart the greatest love and trust and the best blessing and fortune we received from President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il. Man can manage to live without money or wealth, but cannot without love and trust. Being the rich of love and trust and mentality, we give cheers for the human love and trust!

At the same time we announce to the land of Korea and our planet from the bottom of our heart:

"President Kim Il Sung is an immortal sun of love and trust!"

President Kim Il Sung Eternal Sun of Our Destiny

By
Humberto Ortiz Flores (Ecuador)

Now I am on the wrong side of eighty.

A man would indulge in the old age of his life in reminiscences. On the shady side of eighty I would look back upon the days gone by with great emotion. All the memories of the past are beautiful. However, mine would bring swell in my heart greater than any sentimentalism, a pride that I have lived a fruitful life, a life worth living.

Ostropski, well known writer of the former USSR, wrote in his masterpiece “How is the steel tempered?” A man must live a life worth living, so that he may not feel remorse for his past worthless life.

I am proud open and aboveboard that I lived a worthwhile life with a clean conscience as he said. I am happy for this.

The credit of my proud recollection in the closing years of my life goes entirely to my respect of the President Kim Il Sung as a great mentor and my loyalty to his guidance.

He guided me step by step with the truth of the Juche idea and love and trust.

He is really a great mentor in my career and a great sage I have to

follow forever.

In every April my heart would be full of the yearning for him. That inspired me to begin the reminiscences. I hope the readers know that my recollection is a paean in praise of a great man not written with a pen, but with all the heart of a man who made a switchover of life in his embrace and led a worthwhile life.

Great Mentor of Life

I long roamed about to find a great man able to illuminate my path and lead me. Now those days come across my mind like yesterday. Those were full of youthful dreams.

As all others were, I had a great ambition and do something to name from my childhood. With respect to Simon Bolivar, hero of independence of Latin America, I once tried to model after him. I have read the biographies of the great men avidly without sleep. I directed my attention to the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin. However, I could not find what I so desired.

One day in early 1970s I fell on a fortune’s lap unexpectedly. A friend of mine, a writer and journalist, called upon me to give a few booklets. He advised me to read them and said that there I would find the truth I so long sought for. Those were the classic works written by President Kim Il Sung. I found there absolutely new ideas.

The works clarified in a way unprecedented the matter of the position and role of man and the problems of how to carve out his destiny.

The most impressive among the works was “On Some Problems of Our Party's Juche Idea and the Government of the Republic's Internal and

External Policies ", an answer to the question raised by the journalists of the Japanese newspaper *Mainich Shimbun.*

The works pointed out that the Juche idea is in a word an idea that the master of the revolution and construction are the masses of the people and they have the power to propel the revolution and construction. In other words, the master of one's destiny is himself and the power of carving out his destiny lies in himself.

The truth is always simple.

The idea clarified by him is a great truth that has nothing complicated and ununderstandable, an absolute one that needs no proving and a clear and just one.

"That's just it! I hit the truth that I roamed about so hard to seek." I cried for joy.

I cannot find the words to express the joy I felt at that time. It may be compared with that of a man who found an oasis in a desert after being parched with thirst.

I accepted his Juche idea without a hesitation. I was also sorry for not getting this great idea earlier. A man becomes strong if he knows himself, but weak if he does not.

I lost my parents earlier. My mother died when I was nine years old and my father who ran a small printing factory died early driven to the hardships of living. Left alone all I inherited was a few inefficient printing machines.

I sank down hopeless for my future. I had no other way than to use the printing machines, my inheritance from the father though outmoded and backward if I was to make the pot boil. Then I had to learn the printing technique.

I had to hew out my way with strenuous efforts while working and learning the printing technique in the factory in the daytime and studying the printing engineering by myself at night.

My labour was rewarding. In February 1950 when I was twenty I set up the Voluntad Publishing House. Voluntad meant that it was set up by overcoming the difficulties and exerting the sheer force of my will.

I mirrored my past in the Juche idea. I felt shame. So far I had been sort of proud of the Voluntad Publishing House depending on the asset of six printing machines handed down from my father. However, there was no trace of my devotion to the high cause for the masses of the people and the liberation of mankind, though there was a trace of my labour for my own sake.

If I had known of the Juche idea a little earlier, I would have contributed to the sacred cause of bringing the independence of the popular masses into reality more energetically and effectively with redoubled courage.

An old saying that he who realized what's what in the morning can die in the evening satisfied seemed to point to my case.

Many people in the world live unawares of the truth! The same were many of the past masters.

The same was Beethoven I respect.

A born talent, he had to undergo trials of life from the poverty and loss of his hearing vital for a musician. He put his desperation in protest to the misfortune in his fifth symphony "Destiny". If he knew the way to hew out his destiny, the song would not conclude with a writhing in the agony of his misfortune.

He did not and could not know of the truth that a man is the master

of his own destiny.

Life is precious. What have to be done to make the only life happy and worthwhile? Since the dawn of the human society men thought of their own destiny and tried hard to carve it out.

The ancient Egyptians offered many sacrifices to the sun God and Incas built a sun's city on the top of the Andes 3 400 m high above sea level in order to be nearer to the sun and get more benefit from it. As was seen, the ancients thought to entrust their destiny to a mythological entity.

In the human history some thought that something supernatural decides the destiny of men, some others claimed that human life is circumstantial or others held fatalism. A philosopher of ancient Rome said that the fate takes those who hope and drag those who do not. Innumerable people have lived unfortunately obedient to the fatalism that all the worldly affairs and the destiny of men are predestined by the mythical being and there is no other way but to be submissive to it.

Marx authored the philosophy of materialism to unmask the deception of these claims, whereas there was also no clarification of the genuine way of hewing out the destiny of men.

Only the Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung expounded the great truth that man is the most valuable in the world and decides everything and that the master of one's destiny is himself and he himself has the power to carve out his own destiny.

This was the greatest discovery in the history of the human ideologies.

The Juche idea alone is the essence in human respect and protection and all-powerful key to carving out of man's destiny. It opened up the

way the mankind can hew out the destiny with confidence of being the master of their own destiny.

Hence a new era of the human history, an era of independence when the masses of the people became the master of their own destiny was opened.

The Juche idea is a theory of the human liberation and at the same time a powerful weapon for the construction of the new society.

President Kim Il Sung led wisely the revolution and construction as demanded by the Juche idea to turn Korea into a nation whose independence is strongest in the world and an invincible Juche-oriented socialist power that has an independent national economy unflinching in any economic upheavals of the world, sanctions or pressure and possessed of advanced science and technology and strong self-defensive military power proof of any enemies' attack.

Korea is the homeland of the Juche idea and a great country displaying the invincible vitality of the Juche idea.

The Juche idea gives a right course of hewing out man's destiny and proves to be a beacon light illumining the way for the construction of the new society to the mankind.

This beacon light guided me to turn the steer of my life to a follower of the Juche idea.

I was firmly convinced that the Juche idea was a great idea that could invigorate Ecuador, and obliged myself to impart the Ecuadorians with this idea

I hurried up myself to begin publishing the works of President Kim Il Sung, an encyclopedia of the Juche idea.

The publication and distribution of the works called forth a great

public response. The publishing house was busy with calls, letters and visits. I found the invincible vitality of the Juche idea and felt the pride of its follower and propagator in their admiring and zealous voice and the warmth of their shaking hands.

In those days I visited Korea 14 times and had the luck of meeting the President 12 times. I got better acquainted with him, the Juche idea and Korea where it had been successfully materialized. I made more vigorous efforts to give more publicity to it.

At this point a change was shown in the attitude of the people toward me. Many people including those in a certain social standing wanted to hear my view about the political and many other issues and asked me to explain about the Juche idea.

Answering them I would explain the principles of the Juche idea. They listened attentively to my words and set great store by my views.

I would tell them with pride:

"I have a great man I would follow forever as a father and mentor. He is President Kim Il Sung. I am proud of being his disciple."

In this way I fixed the course of Juche in my voyage of life as his disciple and made a switchover in life as a social activist devoting myself to the social progress and justice. Pushkin, one of literary giants, told that to follow a great man's idea is the most interesting science.

If he is still alive, what would he say?

If I am allowed to speak for him, I will announce this way:

A man can acquire the genuine truth that makes him lead a life worthy of man and go along a righteous course for the social progress and prosperity if he follows the Juche idea of President Kim Il Sung. Therefore, every aspirer of genuine life must know of the Juche idea and

keep to its truth. The Juche-oriented course is a permanent course all the people of the world must take.

Benevolent Father of Life

Just as a sailor needs a compass for right route sailing in a boundless expanse of ocean, so a man needs a guide to right his course of life. The orientation in life is decisive in life. A slight deviation would drive him into a labyrinth. Hence a man needs a mentor and the people need the leader caring after their life like father.

I learnt the truth of Juche in the embrace of President Kim Il Sung, found the worth and happiness of life in following and disseminating the Juche idea and rose up to the meridian of life under his guidance.

When I met him for the first time on the 9th of October, 1974, I was thoroughly admired at his humanity and decided to follow him as a fatherly leader.

I was deeply impressed by his simple manner when I saw him in front of a cozy building by a calm lakeside to wait for me. I saw the high personality of a great man in his drawing my hands for a warm handshake, the smiling face and thanks for my trouble to come from far, a broad-minded look, affectionate voice and plain, frank and vigorous manner.

(To be sure, he is a sage!) I exclaimed in mind.

That day he proposed to have a photograph taken first and stood me by his side. Then he expressed gratitude for my coming long way across the ocean to visit Korea and for my support and encouragement to the Korean people in their struggle for the national reunification through

publications in Latin America and said he felt to meet an old friend of his, though it was the first time to met.

On this significant occasion I presented as a gift a wooden sculpture representing the misfortune of our people during the Spanish colonial rule.

The gift had the implication that he is the only savior of the destiny of the exploited and oppressed working people.

I did not send it by air cargo, but instead carried it by myself in all the way of air travel twenty thousands km from the Western to the Eastern Hemisphere of the earth, because I thought it discourtesy to send it by cargo.

On receiving the gift he said: …We are much moved that you brought this valuable gift weighing 15 kg from home to here.

When he was appreciating my sincerity so high, I wondered again for his excessive benevolent and felt attracted to him heart and soul as if an iron is attracted by a magnet.

What impressed me deeply on that day was the fact that he was sharing views of the world policy without reserve with me, a mere publisher far from being a politician or economist.

He told that he was very pleased to have a good friend like me in Latin America saying that both Ecuador and Korea may be said to be developing countries.

I expressed my view that Ecuador is a developing country but Korea is an industrialized developed country.

He told modestly with a broad smile: You observed that Korea is an industrialized developed country. Korea is now starting to develop. She only laid the foundation able to stand and develop on her own.

He went on: We can not adhere to independence in politics without self-reliance in the economy. Korea is not subordinate to others because it had a solid independent national economy.

He spoke in earnest as to how important the newly independent nations just on the way to build a new society achieve economic self-reliance.

Stressing that for the self-supporting economy the developing countries had to cooperate closely not only politically but also economically and technologically, he made me fully aware of the ways and possibilities in easy words.

Now there are more than hundred developing countries in the world. If each of them creates one good technology, there would be a hundred good technologies. Therefore, if the developing countries learn what they do not know and impart what they know one another and closely cooperate and assist among themselves, they would achieve a rapid development and can survive without relying on the assistance of the great powers with strings attached….

He went on to say with confidence taking the neighbouring Peru as an example: Peru has an advanced fish processing technology. She will be able to help others with this technology. To take another example, Korea has a good experience of agricultural irrigation with which she can help others. In this way if the developing countries support and cooperate with each other, they may develop quickly the economy, culture, science and technology without the assistance of the powers.

Listening to his words, my mind ran to my motherland Ecuador.

I am one of the citizens of Ecuador and I love her, my homeland.

Ours is a small country in territory like Korea. We have a little

more area than Korea, and have a population of 13 million. Though equatorial, she has a diverse climate under the influence of the high mountains and good to live in.

My country was a colony of Spain for about three hundred years and achieved independence in the early 19th century.

However, it is low in the level of development compared with Korea. Korea made a brilliant development though she achieved liberation in the mid-20th century and suffered herself from a terrible war for three years.

I deplored that my country did not tap its own potentialities and would indulge myself in contemplation as to how we could make a rapid development in my own way. Sometimes I would look over to other countries.

With the discovery of oil in 1970s oil development industry achieved progress in our country. At the time I saw a ray of hope. But, it has gone like a mirage. The US helped our oil development and most of the oil profits have gone to the pockets of the US capitalists and we had no benefits.

The tide will turn in favour of the developing countries if they support and cooperate, filling each other's needs as the President said.

I seemed to see the bright morrow of Ecuador.

He also explained about the problem of Korea's reunification, too, in detail.

Listening to his words, I could have a better understanding of it and know what I should have to do.

Time flew and it was the lunch time.

He invited me to the luncheon saying that we continue the talk over

the dinner table.

I seemed to dream. My best hope to see him was realized, and in addition to it he invited me to the luncheon. I was so deeply moved I could not express it.

Taking lunch, he would offer me a cup of wine and add delicious foods to my dish saying help myself. Calling me one of his friends, he offered me to take my wife and children when I visit Korea next time, saying it would be better to stay in a family way.

His words moved me to tears. Though I traveled long way across the ocean and continents, I did not expect I could be in so warm and benevolent fatherly embrace.

I looked upon him with high respect and admiration. His was a personality of an outstanding leader and benevolent father.

I could not get to sleep that night.

I found in his personality the peerless great man whom I so much longed to find till the age of 50.

His was a high personality far surpassing the spirit of the sage I dreamt to find. His was a fatherly embrace making one to follow and entrust myself for life.

The greatest fortune for a man is to have a great leader who will bring him up and guide.

He devoted his affection to me and my family without change for 20 years and took warm care of my work and life.

He called me his friend, brother or comrade from the start to the last.

He invited me to the World Conference of Journalists for Anti-imperialism, Peace and Friendship and the 13th World Festival of the

Youth and Students and brought me up from an ordinary publisher to a social activist.

He got acquainted with my health to take measure to care after my health in a hospital in Korea and led my children to lead a worthwhile life. If my father was alive, he would not have done more.

The presents he gave me and my family are enough to prove how he cared after the Humberto family. He gave me, my wife and each of my children every time he met us.

The gifts for me were included tonics for my health and scrolls of lyrical colour, for my wife Ilda a bed cover, polychromatic silk, straw bags and things to the taste of women and for the children pictorial books and school requisites. He was so meticulous.

A gold watch is ceaselessly ticking on the wrist of every one of my family, his gift watch with his name inscribed. The same gift to each of my family may imply his request that my family live punctually and unchangeably like the ticking of the gift watch. Actually we are making efforts to live as he said feeling his request in the ticktack of the watch.

The fatherly benevolence given by President Kim Il Sung to our family is a legend to convey in Ecuador down to generations to come and something more than we can pay with all our efforts.

Paola Sings “Song of General Kim Il Sung”

A philosopher of the 18th century once said “There are many roads to injustice, but only one to the truth.”

I and my children went in perfect accord in following the truth of the history.

Advancing in age I sincerely hoped that my four children too grow to be his disciples and pious descendants faithful to him as I have been and made efforts to bring them up in that way.

Every time he met me he repeatedly said to me to bring my children in a good season and take a rest.

In respect of his invitation and my own consideration I brought all of my four children and showed them to him.

I believed that once they had his personal instructions and witness what happened in Korea, they would find the way forward for themselves.

In the 8th round of my visit to Korea in 1987 I presented him with a gift ring which had seven gems embedded out of my desire. It is the law of the nature that a sunflower follows the sun because it blooms under the sun.

A big gem laid in the middle of the ring with six small gems round it signified my desire to have my family respect him as the sun with a pure and zealous heart just as the sunflower follows the sun. The big gem represented the sun of Juche and the six smaller gems the planets turning round the sun, the planets meaning me and my wife and four children.

My wishes were met. As I desired, they regard him as their grandfather and true to his ideas determined to follow unchangeably the course of the independence and Juche in their voyage of life.

Firmly convinced that the wide publicity of the ideas and exploits of President Kim Il Sung would contribute to the prosperity of their country Ecuador and the cause of independence of mankind and the cause of the national reunification of the friendly Korean people, they put all the efforts to keep to the duty of his descendants and disciples.

So are the eldest daughter Paola and the eldest son Nelson.

I took my wife and both of them with me to Pyongyang in my second visit in 1977 and met him together with them.

At the time Paola was fourteen and Nelson sixteen. At home they were earnest to learn the “Song of General Kim Il Sung” and other Korean songs with the purpose of making him happy when they would meet him in Korea. Their practice went on in the airplane and the guesthouse in Pyongyang, too.

At last, the eagerly expectant day came. The President called us to meet on August 21, 1977.

He called us at the lunch time. He was very glad to see us as if he met his children after a long absence far off and invited us to the dining-room. Delicious Korean dishes were spread on the clean table.

As if we have our father in the meal we lost count of time taking the meal in a happy family way.

He added the cuisine in front him to the dishes of our children asking them to help themselves to their fill, to chew the food well and asking them the dishes were tasty.

Much encouraged with his affection, Paola abruptly got to her feet and said she would sing a song for him.

The President told Bravo and gave applause.

Paola sang the “Song of General Kim Il Sung” in Korean she had learnt with so warm sincerity. Then, she gave him the most courteous greetings like a grown-up. He patted her on the head admirably.

So elated she volunteered to sing another song and sang the song “We Are the Happiest” in Korean, too.

The luncheon was over.

To give us more pleasure he suggested going for a match of angling in the fishing place.

We shouted hurrah. Each of us chose his or her fond place and put the angling rod on the water.

After a while he asked who caught a fish.

I was silent because I did not yet take one. The moment Paola's sonorous voice came that she took one.

He asked her how big, and then she showed two flat palms.

It was a naive behavior a mere child could show to her grandfather.

He laughed a hearty laugh and praised Paola the first in the match.

Every moment of our pleasure at the time is indelible in our mind.

Keeping the fatherly love and benevolence deep in her heart she lives a worthy life as a follower of the Juche idea.

Here I would like to give a brief account about what happened at the time of her marriage.

I was very busy to form the National Committee for the Study of Juche Idea of Ecuador when her marriage was at hand. I had to put off the day of her wedding several times.

But at last I reached at the point of no longer putting it off. Just at the moment some issues have been settled in the rough to give the marriage party another urgent matter popped up.

The Spanish version of the renowned work by the respected leader Kim Jong Il "On the Juche Idea" came into my hands.

From the time I heard his work published I intended the Voluntad to take the lead in publishing it in Latin America. I was busy to publish it in no time. But the problem at issue was her marriage. The publication of the work meant another postponement of her wedding.

How would she feel hurt if I put it off again? I thought it sorry to her though she was my offspring.

At the time she abruptly came to me and told ahead of me to publish the work without delay.

I was very thankful at her words, but could not answer her easily because it meant to put off her wedding once again.

Then, Paola told in earnest: “Dad, I would not go in for a marriage before publishing the works. I cannot bear the dissemination of the great idea of the great man being delayed because of my marriage.”

I have never seen her so salient than at that time. I felt warm in my heart that another generation of descendants following the great men is firmly in the making in Ecuador of Latin America.

“Thanks, my girl!”

With tears I hugged my daughter.

Not only she put off her marriage for the publication of the work, but also took active part in the publishing. As if she had clean forgotten about her marriage, she encouraged the workers while working with them. Besides, she would lead to tide over any difficulties they faced unexpectedly.

One day a pelting rain began to flood the ground floor of the publishing house where the printing machines were installed. It was out of the question to stop the printing because of the flood.

I thought to move the machines to the first floor to continue the printing. But, upstairs I found Paola already preparing to move the machines.

The disciples following the great mentors go the same way.

It was a chokingly happy moment for me.

I felt a great swell in my heart in the thought that the children too pursue my will because I have the great mentors.

I and Paola hurriedly put the rooms in order and installed the machines upstairs to continue the printing of the works without a minute's stop.

She held the wedding after the completion of printing.

After the marriage she visited Korea accompanied by her husband to pay a visit of courtesy to President Kim Il Sung, their respectful grandfather, and be given his blessing.

As they wished, he met them and wished them good luck for the future.

That day he made much time to meet the couple who traveled a long way to make greetings to him and gave precious instructions.

Paola committed herself to respect him as her great mentor and become his grand daughter to follow the Juche idea for whole life.

Actually she sang the "Song of General Kim Il Sung" in the wedding ceremony and announced: "Believe me a family came into being in Ecuador that will succeed the respect and admiration to President Kim Il Sung."

Back in Ecuador she as my right hand poured all her energies into the publicity and dissemination of the Juche idea.

The enemy looked on her as a thorn in his flesh.

They bought ruffians in order to kill her. One evening a fire was shot to her watching TV after supper. However, the despicable plot ended up in failure. Fortunately the bullet missed her and flew over her head. The bullet is still preserved in our house accusing the mean plot of the ruffians.

As the shooting could not force us to give in, the enemy tried to lure us with money. They had tough guys to invite us to south Korea with promises of the return-travel fare born by them, special treatment and their funding of US$ 300 000.

I threw it in his teeth "This Humberto is not so mean to exchange the loyalty with money" and would give them a sound rating to stop hanging around in my face at once.

Thus their attempt to bend our confidence and will to follow the great mentor generation after generation on the contrary further hardened our determination.

An idea is not hereditary and so genetics cannot be applied to it. The best way to carry on the cause of the great mentor and leader down the posterity lies in the confidence. In this respect, I think my children, attracted by the great man, made the confidence their own so as to succeed the work their father initiated.

Paola has set up Paola Publishing House together with her husband.

She obtained machines on having fund available and is making an earnest preparation to publish the works of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il and books about Korea extensively saying that she would succeed the father's intention.

The eldest son Nelson too is a follower of the Juche idea in succession to me.

Tele Andina 23 headed by him broadcasts from 14:00 to 24:00 every day where he put on the program of the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il on the major holidays of Korea and every Saturday. In particular, on the anniversaries of the President's birth and death he would see to release the Korean

documentaries such as “President Kim Il Sung Will Always Be with Us!” or “The Great Life in 1994”in the main.

The second son Alvar is in charge of the publication of the works of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il in Voluntad. I had him graduate a printing specialized school and aid me to succeed the tradition of the Voluntad known widely with the publication of the works on the Juche idea. He is now playing the role of the master.

Centuries ago British poet William Blake wrote that an idea can fill the infinite space of the universe. In today’s viewpoint I think he was right in the diffusion and attraction potentialities of progressive ideas. The Juche idea and the Songun idea cover the planet now.

The Voluntad Publishing House, *Tele Andina 23* and Paola Publishing House of the Humberto family have become the centre of the publicity and diffusion in Latin America representing the voice of the time advancing vigorously along the way of independence under the banner of the Juche idea and the Songun idea.

All the organisms on earth have a start and end.

However, the great idea leading the time, the immortal exploits contributing to the human development and the high traits that make an example of the work and life of men—they do not cease their existence with the body of the man, but ever-lasting.

The incarnation of such an idea, exploits and personality is none other than President Kim Il Sung, great mentor and father. Great and noble President Kim Il Sung is always with those many disciples in all the continents who made a switchover in their life like me attracted by his personality and in his embrace, the second and the third generation like my children succeeding the will of their parents and the progressive mankind.

President Kim Il Sung Great Statesman in 20th Century

By

Vladimir Tolstikov, former chairman of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK

Vladimir Tolstikov, author of this story, passed away November 2011 leaving his reminiscences, a review of his life, unfinished.

However, the members of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK, the old comrades-in-arms and friends of the deceased, could fully understand in this writing what he wanted to say.

Vladimir Tolstikov was always proud of the uncommon ties of friendship with President Kim Il Sung of Korea, an outstanding great statesman in the 20th century.

What will be the pride of life? It may be the devotion of one's life to the cause of the happiness of mankind and euphoria on the memory of the relationship with wise popular great men.

However, the summary on life of this kind is rare.

We think it our moral obligation to complete as he wished his reminiscences condensed of the words left unsaid in his lifetime and the words he wished to say to the coming generations after his death. That

is the reason why we bring out the reminiscences on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

We believe that his reminiscences will make a great contribution to transferring to the posterity the remarkable feats and dignified presence of President Kim Il Sung, great politician and distinguished militarist, and to developing the deep-rooted relations of friendship between Russia and Korea arranged by him and Russian leaders.

On this occasion we, Russian friends, are convinced that the Korean people who have made heroic achievements led by great President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il will certainly build a reunified and prosperous nation under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Victor Petrov
Chairman of Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
April 2012
Moscow

I am now close to the mossy corner of four score years and ten. A witness of the eventful two centuries, I have many stories to tell and recollect.

Out of them left in relief in my memory are those about great President Kim Il Sung and his country the DPRK and my activities for 60 years supporting socialism in Korea.

I wrote on my behalf a letter of congratulations to the inaugural meeting of the International Preparatory Committee for Celebrating the Centenary of the Birth of President Kim Il Sung held in 2010 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Despite a special bond with him I was unfortunately too ill to go to the meeting, so I wrote in the letter that President Kim Il Sung was a distinguished politician in the 20th century and world people pray from the bottom of their heart for his eternal life in praise of the great exploits made by him for the socialist revolution and global independence.

After writing the letter I nursed again in my mind those happy recollections on the special relationship with him and unforgettable experiences.

Any recollection is insufficient if it remains only reminiscences on bygone days. It is really worthy of recollection when it is added to with a romantic aspiration for the bright future.

When I remind of the years of the first acquaintance with him and working near him, I would feel vigor and vitality in my old age.

I have already written many pieces of writing for the Russian and Korean publications. Now I am going to review my proud life of nearly one century with the reminiscences on President Kim Il Sung, a great man of the 20th century.

I think that this is a work I can do in my last years for him who was regrettably gone earlier, for the Korean people he so loved and many in Russia who still keep friendly feeling and love towards him in their heart.

Admiration

Love is said to start from the admiration.

Without the traditional high feeling of love the world we live in may be no different from the Frigid Zone.

Love is the greatest benevolence a man can bestow to another and essence of the most beautiful feelings. This love comes from admiration.

However, it is not easy that a man have a feeling of truthful admiration to another.

The feeling I had throughout my life and this proud recollection too start from the admiration I felt to a man in my youthful days. Those were indeed unforgettable days.

After the World War Two which plunged mankind into the holocaust of murder and destruction, the European and American powers were at odds with each other to wrest the sphere of hegemony. The first great man soaring in my recollection of this turbulent mid-20th century is Generalissimo Kim Il Sung, the great man of the modern history and the great leader of the Korean people.

Thanks to him, his wisdom and unusual qualities and personality as a statesman the Korean people were freed from the colonial slavery, achieved great successes in all the fields of social life and are admired with a legitimate place in the international community.

I had special ties of relationship with him for decades of years. I admired him from the start especially for his humane nature, his popularity that is affectionate and modest all the time.

We often met in various circumstances and places on official occasions and private contacts. He was a handsome man with tall and balanced stature, resounding voice and ever-present admirable smile in the bright eyes.

When he meets the people, he would shake their hands with his tender, warm and kind hand.

I regarded him as my kith and kin and made efforts to impress the profound message in his words deep in my mind.

As the world recognizes, he was an extraordinary great man and genius. However, in daily life he was simple, commonplace, very kind and hospitable.

He would hear the others throughout attentively and offer a very clear and weighty conclusion or opinion.

Anybody, attentive to his words, soon realizes his infinite wisdom and very rich revolutionary experience.

He put priority in all his activities to the care of the working people's livelihood and trouble.

I have kept deep in mind his motto "People is the Heaven" already at the time of the first meeting. He would frequently mention it like a commandment.

I often met him in the periods of the Korean War and post-war.

I used to take part in preparing various materials in his mansion as instructed by the former USSR ambassador in Pyongyang.

What strongly impressed me is his constant care of the people's

living during the severe war. His warm love of people is still vivid in my memory. He defined the improvement of people's material and cultural welfare as the supreme principle of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In January 1951 the Korean War was on the fiercest phase. At this time he convened a political committee meeting of the WPK Central Committee to put forth important tasks for stabilizing the wartime livelihood of the people.

In the wartime, a time of the biggest national disaster, the thought of all people naturally would be directed to the situation at the front. In the vortex of such a disaster a private destiny or a misfortune of one family is apt to be ignored. However, this was not the case to President Kim Il Sung.

In the meeting he pointed out that at present some officials in the Party, state and economic institutions directed no concern to the stability of the impoverished livelihood of the people, pretending that they could not afford to care after the people's living conditions now that things were too scanty for them to meet the material demand for the front, and then he sternly reproved those officials.

He said to this effect: Our people are bravely overcoming the severe ordeal of the war under the leadership of the Party and the state and entirely entrust their own destiny to them. Our officials should not ignore the welfare of the people under the pretext of the wartime condition. Without the people we cannot win the war and build our motherland into a prosperous country after the war.

He repeatedly emphasized those present at the meeting about the importance of the stability of the people's wartime livelihood.

He said earnestly that what was important in stabilizing the

people's livelihood lay at present in producing the consumer goods including clothes and shoes, increasing the yield of cereals, intensifying the medical service to the working people and giving relief to the war sufferers.

As a small drop of water is said mirrors the universe, this case alone is a good evidence of his unusual mentality of loving people.

He would have the people on his mind always either in the grimmest or in the happiest days and devoted his all to the welfare of the people to the last day of his life.

There is hardly any factory or village he had not been to in Korea. He was on friendly terms there with many common people and often discussed state affairs with them. He was always true to his motto "People is the Heaven" and regarded them as an almighty being and his mentor. People too in return were loyal to him and highly respected him.

He was hospitable to me too, no more than a foreign correspondent and always regarded me as one of his old friends.

After I left Pyongyang following the armistice in Korea I met him seldom. However, he always remembered me and would come to offer me his hand every time.

In early February 1968 the situation grew tense after the capture of the *USS Pueblo.* B.N. Ponomaryov and I went to Pyongyang to meet President Kim Il Sung. As Ponomaryov was about to introduce me, he said with a smile: We are an old acquaintance.

He spent the whole day talking with us. That day Ponomaryov notified him of the motive of our visit, that is, the talk between the delegations of the CPSU and the Japanese CP in Tokyo.

Then President Kim Il Sung gave a luncheon for us. At the table we

recollected the bygone days of our fraternal relations and exchanged the views on the current state of the situation.

President Kim Il Sung told us in detail about what were happening in Korea. He said socialism in Korea too was making headway vigorously and rapidly, tiding over hardships, though many, successfully. That was the reason why, he went on, the south Korean puppets and their masters across the Ocean were so mad against, and hard upon, the Korean people.

During the talk I felt once again that he was sharp in the appraisal of the situation, but interpreted it humorously.

Though he was gone long before, when I remind of his words, work, deeds and all about him, a phrase of a Russian poem "As time went by, a great man is known" comes across my mind.

All the things associated with President Kim Il Sung are very interesting and valuable to me.

On various occasions I met many people who worked close to him and for long.

All of them regarded him rather as their father or mentor than a leader.

I have been to many places where he was working and living and many times, when I was working in Korea and afterwards.

I have been to the Party Headquarters in the earlier period after founding of the WPK in 1945 where he was working, the building of the DPRK cabinet, the supreme command in Maram and the wartime underground office room in Pyongyang.

I also have been to the Kumsusan Assembly Hall (Kumsusan Palace of the Sun at present) where he worked in the last days of his life.

Everywhere I have been to I found to my surprise that all the

durables and daily necessities were very frugal and convenient to work. There nothing luxurious, unnecessary or decorative could be found.

He was always wearing plain clothes and never particular in meals, in a word, very frugal in diet too.

He would take usually a bowl of boiled rice mixed with foxtail millet or corn and a cup of mineral water in his meal. Though not often, he was fond of fishing in recesses.

Externally these may be seen as insignificant details, but his simplicity and frugality is a good testifier of his unfathomable inner world, magnanimity, strong inclination to the objective and infinite devotion to the cause of the working people.

Another merit that attracted me was his gifted wisdom and resourcefulness, unusual clairvoyance, in another word a prodigy worthy of a political leader. His knowledge was versatile.

As the days went by, I felt deeper his uncommonness in looks, thinking and practice as a great man.

Great leaders are born in the countries making revolution and the changes of the times are made by them.

The leaders of the people were known to have a deeper and more straightforward insight into the import of the change in a historical era, the demand of the appropriate stage of the revolutionary development and the immediate interests in the livelihood of the broad masses of the people than anybody else.

In Korea too there had been revolutionaries known and unknown who left certain traces in the past. But all of them are far more inferior to President Kim Il Sung in the historical role as the greatest of the great men, brilliant commander, theoretician and an organizer who propelled

the broad masses of people to the struggle for the national liberation and new socialist life.

President Kim Il Sung deserves to stand in the forefront of the international leaders who are living an immortal life.

Their images are impressed eternally in the memory of their people and in the monuments with the inscriptions of all the martyrs who fought for the sake of the freedom and welfare of the oppressed people.

The good memory of them goes down the generations to come, and their good images make the example in the life of all the people the world over and the song and legends to move the posterity.

I am going to disclose a not-widely-known historical fact proving that he was a statesman with a unique insight and clairvoyance.

He was one of the few world politicians who predicted the catastrophic nature of the "reform" advocated by Gorbachov from the mid-80s of the last century and its fatal consequences.

He warned the Gorbachov leadership of the former CPSU of this twice.

But already determined to pull down socialism, the betrayers did not give an ear to what he warned and finally led to the collapse of socialism in our country.

Worried about the destiny of the world socialism and our country, he visited the former USSR twice in poor health for old age.

In the meetings and talks at the time he warned about the enormous disaster that would be brought about by the subversive policies of Gorbachov and his company.

If the Gorbachov leadership lent an ear to his warning and contemplated reasonably, the world would probably avoid the numerous

calamities and wars.

Indeed, he was a talented and prompt politician in every aspect.

When I recollect the heart-breaking days an experience during the days of the Korean War comes across my mind.

The US generals who succeeded McArthur, loser and adventurist, clamored again about the use of the atomic bomb in Korea where everything was already reduced to zero, purely in an attempt to "blackmail" Korea for retrieving their continued defeat in the front.

This made various rumors in vogue either in the front or the rear. At this time a newspaper in Korea carried an article on what is the atomic bomb and how to do to prevent damage from it. The gist of the article was emphasizing that the best way was to cover oneself with a white sheet of cloth when the atomic bomb burst. What an influence this article brought to the mentality of the people when some defeatists already tremble in fear of the atomic bomb will be clear to all.

In these circumstances the DPRK Cabinet adopted a decision on greening the cities of the country at the initiative of President Kim Il Sung.

Greening was put on the agenda nationwide. Tree-planting parties were organized to green boulevards, streets, squares, recreation grounds and open spaces.

Orders and medals were awarded to model members and newspapers carried their photos on the front page. At the meetings subjects for better greening were put on the agenda.

Members of the Children's Union and people were energetic in greening their streets and villages. The greening work was carried on literally in a nationwide campaign.

This measure had a very strong effect on the mentality of the people. They felt relieved from the fear of the atomic bomb, seeing the greening work going on full steam ahead. People soon took it easy and gradually got oblivious of the atomic bomb.

His political sagacity and insight were proved all rounds in selecting his successor.

He solved the problem of the successor very correctly and reasonably from the heart-breaking lesson caused by the failure of solving this problem in the former USSR and other socialist countries.

Imparting the valuable experiences he obtained during his revolutionary struggle to Comrade Kim Jong Il from long ago he entrusted him to guide the important fields of the Party and state affairs.

The Korean people brought about great social, economic and political changes under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il.

The successes achieved under the leadership of the two outstanding great men unusually enhanced their national dignity and pride and made the world to view them with envy as a powerful and talented people, not a week nation and country of the past.

President Kim Il Sung led the Korean revolution nearly 70 years. He was a heaven-sent statesman. An experienced veteran of the world politics, he led the socialist revolution from the World War Two to the last years of the past century.

The Korean people proudly say that the life and chronicle of activities of President Kim Il Sung constitute a history of thriving nation of the sun.

To emphasize again, his is a precious life involving all the

developments of the Korean revolution from the thirties of the 20th century.

They are quite satisfied that all this invaluable legacy was completely inherited by the great leader Kim Jong Il, a fighter faithful to President Kim Il Sung and the successor of his cause.

Comrade Kim Jong Il has been leading the WPK, army and state along the road of socialism as President Kim Il Sung desired in his lifetime.

President Kim Il Sung is always in the heart of the Russian people!

Comrade Kim Jong Il is just the same with Comrade Kim Il Sung!

Recollection

Half of my life is related with the heroic Korean people I love.

In August 1945 I took part in the operation for the liberation of Korea attached to the Russian Pacific Fleet.

My friends in Korea would say that the navy in the relief of the Liberation Tower on the Moran Hill was modeled after me. Though I once posed for a sculptor, I do not think it true.

I was awarded the Order of Patriotic War the First Class and the Second Class in recognition of the heroism in the combats for the liberation of Korea.

I was in Pyongyang from 1952 in the capacity of the representative of the Soviet Information Bureau and reporter for *Pravda.*

For three and half years in Pyongyang I conveyed the solidarity and support of the former USSR and international community to the Korean people and the militant and labor exploits of the Korean people

vice versa so that they actively encourage the Korean people.

I was also awarded later the Order of Red Flag in recognition of the services in the Korean War in accordance with the suggestion of the ambassador of the USSR to DPRK.

Later I gave assistance to organizing various events for solidarity with the Korean people while working in the Central Committee of the CPSU from 1960s to 1980s.

In the latter half of the 1980s I usually organized, in the capacity of the Chairman of the USSR Committee for the Solidarity with the Asian and African Countries, various large-sized events in support of the Korean people in their struggle for opposing the provocations of the US and achieving peace and national reunification in the Korean peninsula.

In 1987 President Kim Il Sung awarded me the Order of Friendship the First Class of the DPRK.

I retired after the August event, 1991.

In 1992 when the counterrevolutionary media were gone mad against the Communist Party, USSR and Korea, I initiated to restore the Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK with the purpose of supporting President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il and the traditional friendship between the two countries.

I was elected its chairman in the meeting of restoration and still work on that post. I had spared no efforts to make it into the nationwide organization of Russia. It is the first restored friendship association after the August event in our country.

I was elected the chairman of the East European Centre for Support to and Solidarity with the DPRK in the conference of the leaders of the

associations for friendship with the DPRK in the East European region held in 1997 in Moscow.

Soon after its inauguration following the association the centre also launched its activities to strengthen the publicity against all the slanders and calumnies on Korea. As a result, a man of the TV in Moscow wrote for the *Izbestia*: "Because the Association with the DPRK succeeded in the publicity about Korea we needed to delete certain items (accusations on Korea) in our program."

In 1995 Oleg Shenin appointed me to the Chief of the International Department of the CPSU League Council and soon after, I was elected to the Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU in charge of the liaison with the communist and workers' parties of other countries when we reconstruct the CPSU.

Party organizations took an active part in the work of the Association for the Friendship with the DPRK.

From 1980s to 1990s I visited the DPRK ten times and was given three times of official reception and met him many times to have a talk during the festive days of the Korean people and the national events I was invited.

Once, after an interview with him I presented him with a mantelpiece clock of the Gugel area as a gift. He saw the clock very carefully and praised that it was constructed very delicately and then asked me about the history of the ceramic ware of the Gugel area. Frankly speaking, I was not prepared to give him satisfactory answers about all he asked. Then he told me with a smile to explain later when I fully know of.

It is difficult for me to cover in this brief writing the numerous experiences in Korea, particularly all the recollections and emotional

impressions I got whenever I met him personally.

But it was when I had first-hand knowledge that I had a firm conviction that the Korean people could win the unprecedented war against the most ignominious formidable enemy and achieve great successes in the post-war rehabilitations and many phases of socialist revolution.

In addition, he was an amazing optimist. I often heard from him "Though the Heaven collapses, there must be an escape."

When I arrived in Pyongyang in early 1952 in the middle of the Korean War, the front line was almost fixed and the war looked to protract.

It was worried whether the DPRK had the potentialities of manpower and material resources enough to cope up with the protracting war against a formidable rival absolutely superior in armaments and technical equipment.

However, the progress of the things in the front proved my worry in vain and replaced it with admiration.

I could understand how the warriors of the Korean People's Army had defeated the large-scale aggressive offensives boisterously hyped by the US generals and how bravely they had fought having a free hand in battles, while I was visiting war-torn hills and meeting the KPA soldiers. Besides, I witnessed the brigandish acts done by the American barbarians in Korea.

Only a sixth of all the sorties made by the US air force were accounted to have been employed to cover their troops and all the rest to kill peaceful civilians and reduce factories and villages to ashes that have nothing to do with the war.

During the war of 37 months the American barbarians made 800 000 sorties to the territorial air of the DPRK.

They dropped 600 000 tons of bombs including 15 millions of various napalms. They made 1 400 sorties of air raids on Pyongyang and dropped 428 000 bombs.

Actually all the dwelling houses, cultural and health facilities and factories in the new-born People's Republic were literally reduced to ashes.

Despite the rain of bombing and bombardment, the people in the rear continued to produce weapons and ammunitions, assisted the front in every possible way, and made a blueprint for the post-war rehabilitation and development with high creative enthusiasm.

The energetic and inspiring speeches given by President Kim Il Sung, Supreme Commander of the KPA, on the air, his optimism and firm conviction to the final victory imparted confidence to the Korean people and myself as well.

One day in a talk with me he said full of confidence that the Americans jumped upon the Koreans, unaware of the mental power of the KPA soldiers and the history will record in its chapters the wonder that a small country bring the big to its knees.

Of course, the V-Day was still far. The Korean people had to go through many a difficulty and ordeal to the V-Day.

Brazen-faced and avaricious US imperialists were manoeuvring to bring into reality their plan in Asia relying on the solid bases in the southern part of Korea, Japan and the islands in the Pacific.

The United States started the war with a sinister aim of occupying whole Korea and further prevailing over the USSR and China.

The US invasion against socialist Korea was the first confrontation between the different ideologies and social systems that emerged in the world after the World War Two and a treacherous risky war started by the international reactionaries to feel out the unity of socialism, exterminate it and further find the possibility for establishing its supremacy over the world.

Therefore, the success of the Korean people meant not only defending the freedom and integrity of their own country and their right to build a new life, but also safeguarding the world socialism and its dignity.

The victory of the Korean people also would clearly demonstrate that socialism had the power capable of winning in the confrontation with the aggressive imperialist allied forces.

That is why the rational-minded regard in the days gone by or at present the victory of the Korean people as deserving an international importance.

Since the warmongers of the Wall Street knew it full well, they were lavish enough to push into the small Korean front two millions of troops, a fifth of their air force, fleets of war ships including main naval ships and various war means.

Meanwhile, they enlisted the troops of their 15 satellite countries to cover their true aim of invasion. The troops of their satellite countries too who came to the Korean War, taken in by the false propaganda of the US, were exterminated in the Korean front.

Australia, active in dispatching their troops to the Korean front, sent an air wing to the Korean front. But, in an aerial fight they lost all their aircraft.

Turkey sent to the Korean War their young people totally unaware of why and whom they had to fight. Therefore, The Korean People's Army side took a measure to send back home a Turkish P.O.W. who had the slightest knowledge of what he fought for.

The Americans blew their own trumpet: The Korean War will be over in 72 hours.

Many capitalist politicians and military experts predicted: The American victory is only a question of time.

But in the Korean peninsula miracles occurred defying those predictions. After all, the US bit the dust and could not help but admit it.

Where on earth did the Korean people get such strength? How could they bring such a surprising victory? Who made such a miracle?

All the Korean people and the KPA displayed unrivaled mass heroism in every fierce engagements under the leadership of the WPK led by Marshal Kim Il Sung, great leader and Supreme Commander, to break down the myth of the US mightiness.

The heroic struggle of the Korean people received support and encouragement of the USSR, the People's Republic of China, all other socialist countries and the progressive people of the world.

I was specially moved when I was told that he was often been to the foremost front roaring with fierce fight at the risk of his life to encourage the soldiers and people and led them to a thrilling victory in every battle with the unique tactics unknown in any military manuals of all times and spaces.

He would put forth unpredictable original tactics in every stage of the war to bring successive defeats to the enemy.

Included in his strategies were an instant counteroffensive,

strategical temporary retreat and active position warfare.

His combat tactics were tunnel warfare tactics, surprise, ambushing, the movement of aircraft and tanks, snipers movement and various other effective tactics.

The triumph won by the Korean people in the war was a historic wonder made by the firm unity of the army and people behind him and the victory of his outstanding military ideas and leadership art.

The victory will be conveyed down to the generations to come.

I and my wife Tamara carefully keep as our family treasure the photograph of the brilliant commander Marshal Kim Il Sung taken when he was making a signature on the Korean Armistice Agreement after examined it.

I participated in the initialing ceremony of the Armistice Agreement signed by General Nam Il, KPA Chief of Staff, and American General Harrison on the morning of the 27th of July, 1953. All the details of the ratification of the Armistice Agreement held in Pyongyang soon after are still vivid in my memory.

Supreme Commander of the KPA Marshal Kim Il Sung made the signature in the document of the Armistice Agreement after examined it. The ceremony was held in the Cabinet conference room at 22:30 on the 27th of July.

The room was packed with the leading officials of the Party and state, social activists and many reporters.

Marshal Kim Il Sung entered the room at 21:59.

He was in formal white marshal dress. He exchanged handshakes with those present and slowly seated himself at the table to receive a file with the agreement document from Nam Il, the KPA Chief of Staff.

At 22:00 sharp siren blew as at the time of the all-clear to announce the end of the war.

When the ratification was finished, the venue was full of joy and delight. All extended warm congratulations to him. I also made a firm handclasp with him.

The image of President Kim Il Sung that I recorded honorably in the page of the history on that day still vividly remain in my memory as a hero of the 20th century and a great guardian of justice who strongly defended the front line of new-born socialism against so-called "world mighty power".

With this great image in my heart I left Korea after the ceasefire.

It was early February 1968 13 years later that I have seen him again.

As I have mentioned above, I accompanied Ponomaryov, secretary of the CC of the former CPSU to visit Korea again. At the time the situation in Korea was taut with tension to a touch-and-go point after the capture of the *USS Pueblo.*

When their armed spy ship known as an "invisible king" of the US navy was captured in the territorial waters of the DPRK, the Americans became desperate and began to concentrate their naval force around the Korean peninsula.

They demanded that Korea apologize for the capture of their ship and return her and blackmailed that otherwise they will take the use of an atomic bomb into account.

In the interview with us he explained in detail about the goings-on before and after the capture and said to this vein:

…We will never return the ship and give another lesson to the Americans still out of their mind….

In answer to the continued US threatening he announced to the world in his speech given in the event held a few days later marking the reformation of the KPA into a regular armed force that the KPA would give the US imperialists tit for tat, that is, retaliation for the US retaliation and all-out war for their all-out war.

Reading his famous speech, I felt once again after the war his firm reliance on the strength of his army and people and his indomitable courage and will.

Back in Moscow after reading the report of A. A. Gromiko from New York who had been attending the UNGA meeting, I could be well aware of how much confused the US was at this incident, though they bragged in the public presence.

At the time the US State Secretary Bens came to Gromiko to ask: "May you make a recommendation to President Kim Il Sung for the Koreans to return the *USS Pueblo.*"

Gromiko was said to have replied shortly to Bens: "I advise for you to negotiate the issue straight with Pyongyang."

The spy-aircraft EC-121 and the Panmunjom incident following the capture of the *Pueblo* were all settled after the apology of the US lying low because all of them were their own provocations.

So the world again observed the dignified image of the great man, the guardian of justice of the 20th century.

After the series of incidents the USSR and world media, introducing the power of the KPA, began to describe relatively in detail that the soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, the predecessor of the KPA, had already been carrying on an arduous heroic struggle against Japanese aggressors for 15 years from early 1930s under his

leadership.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle in Korea initiated a new chapter of the national liberation struggle of the Korean people and signifies a historic watershed from which the liberation struggle of the people was elevated from the passive form to the active armed form.

At that time the Japanese could not help but admit that a newly-organized armed struggle had been going on in an extensive scale and an organized way.

An official document of the Japanese government-general discloses that the Korean guerrillas made 24 000 raids on Japanese institutions and military facilities in the first half of the 1930s alone.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla forces carried on more than 4 000 operations against Japanese imperialists in the year of 1939.

The Soviet publications reported that the guerrilla units led by President Kim Il Sung were making a big breakthrough in the "Japan's strategy for the supremacy of Asia".

He also actively took part in bringing about the plan of forming an international allied force (IAF) of the USSR, China and Korea with a deep insight into the internal and external situation of the first half of the 1940s.

In doing so, he made clear that the KPRA and the north-eastern China's anti-Japanese combined forces had to have individuality within the IAF.

As soon as the IAF was organized, the situation in the Far East began to develop in favor of the international revolution and it made a considerable contribution to the struggle against the Japanese imperialists.

His activities in organizing and strengthening the IAF made a good example in dealing with the principle of independence of every constituent country and the principle of the international solidarity and cooperation in a rightful way in revolutionary struggle.

I have seen in a documentary a scene of the IAF dress parade with the Korean anti-Japanese guerrillas involved. This made me a lucky man who had three chances to see the dress parade of the Korean revolutionary armed force held in various stages.

The first chance was the scene of the march past in the documentary which was held to mark the founding of the IAF in a military base near Khabarovsk in the summer of 1942.

At that time President Kim Il Sung and the Soviet Far Eastern Forces Commander Apanasenko and other commanding officers reviewed the march past, where the Korean guerrilla units were parading in the van with a red flag.

Seeing this scene, I thought how much trouble he had gone through to raise such a credible people's revolutionary armed force in so severe condition without the country to rely on.

In the operation for liberating Korea from the bondage of Japanese colonialism the 140th special guard reconnoitering unit of the Pacific Fleet had a mission to land the coast to seize Unggi, Rajin, Chongjin and Wonsan, the fortified strong points along the eastern coast of Korea.

I got a serious wound on the leg while blowing up an enemy pill box in a battle. But, I earnestly appealed to the commanding officer USSR double hero V. N. Leonov to include me in the last landing operation of Wonsan.

Hence I could take part in the operation depending on a stick.

If the Korean guerrillas did not clear the Japanese and their strong points in many military establishments and residential areas prior to our operation, the operation of the Red Army for the liberation of Korea would have made great loss and complication.

The guerrilla scouts provided us with valuable informations, too. I still remember I met guerrillas who had already been there when we landed on Rajin.

They informed us the layout of the routing Japanese forces and troop strength.

The heroic guerrilla struggle led by him played an important role in defeating the Japanese forces stationed in Korea.

The second chance was the dress parade held to mark the victory of the Korean War in 1953. I have seen it on the spot and in films.

I cannot forget the excitement of the day focusing my lens on the solemn and impressive scenes.

President Kim Il Sung in his white dress was waving his hand on the makeshift platform with a full smile in return for the cheers from the columns marching past. In the square named after him the heroic KPA warriors just from the front where fierce battles were over just a few days ago marched past in fine array raising cheers with the pride of victors.

It was followed by the mass demonstration of the working people to mark the victory.

As mentioned above, President Kim Il Sung put great attention to the rear during the wartime.

The heroic working class of Korea trained and educated by him was the mainstay of the rear and reserve force of the front.

I still keep carefully at home the photo I have taken at that time with the image of the Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung standing on the platform.

The third one is the parade held in September 1998 to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

Just as I felt in the last parade, I felt quite astonished this time too in the square of the parade at the political and ideological features and fortitude of the Korean revolutionary armed forces. Those marching past pledged allegiance to leader Kim Jong Il who was standing on the platform.

Thundering hurrah and cry of guarding the leader with their life were reverberating the square. The foreigners in the guest-standing block too wondered saying "The Korean army is a leader's army".

Observing the columns of paraders pledging loyalty with the spirit of do-or-die to defend their leader, I thought: No force on earth can defeat this army. If the Korean army had not been so strong, the US would neither have been obedient to admit its defeat nor left Korea as she is now.

This remarkable parade was an eloquent testifier of the great pains made by President Kim Il Sung to strengthen the revolutionary armed forces putting priority to the military in the revolution and construction.

There goes a saying in Russia "Grasp an ax firmly to catch a bear." Empty hands are useless in fighting a brute rushing at the throat.

There is no worse error than that a socialist leader does not take care for strengthening military and weakens his defensive forces, unilaterally yielding to the pressure of the imperialists and averting their increased reinforcements for stifling socialism.

Great Lenin who led the socialist revolution in Russia said that the oppressed class had to be come in for the fate of slavery if it does not make efforts to learn how to handle arms and equip itself with arms in order to defend the gains of revolution.

There is no use for a nation to complain of its collapse, a nation unprepared to defend its own integrity with arms in their hand and do-or-die spirit.

The cases of Afghanistan and Iraq are a good proof of it.

Korea defends her sovereignty and dignity reliably in present complex international situation and states her case openly in the world arena.

President Kim Il Sung strengthened the revolutionary armed force from the start of his revolutionary activities with a foresight far into the future, and relying on it repelled imperialist aggression to defend the freedom and independence of the country and happy life of the Korean people.

The revolutionary red flag held high by him is now flying on the advance of the Songun revolution initiated by General Kim Jong Il.

President Kim Il Sung will always live in the heart of people and with the permanently prospering DPRK.

I feel very proud of the long close ties of friendship with respected President Kim Il Sung, great leader, outstanding brilliant commander and talented great man.

His voice saying “Tolstikov is my old acquaintance” still rings in my ear.

His bright image will always be alive in my heart and in the heart of mankind.

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